# NORTHERN ISLANDER

$5.00

APRIL 2026


## SPRING PUT ON HOLD AS OLD MAN WINTER DECLARES BEAVER ISLAND HIS “FOREVER HOME”

## NEW STUDY FINDS NO GENETIC EVIDENCE OF IRISH ANCESTRY ON BEAVER ISLAND

## ROAD COMMISSION TO BUILD UNDERWATER TUNNEL TO THE ISLAND

## KING STRANG DESCENDANT CLAIMS OWNERSHIP OF PRINT SHOP MUSEUM

## WOLVES PARACHUTED IN TO HELP CONTROL ISLAND DEER POPULATION

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Established 1957
Keeping Island History Alive

NORTHERN ISLANDER

is proudly owned and published by the
*Beaver Island Historical Society*

| | |
|---|---|
| **Board President** | Tracy Paquin |
| **Executive Director** | Lori Taylor-Blitz |
| **Executive Editor** | George Broder |
| **Editor** | Elsie Burton |
| **Editor's Assistant** | Brittney Rittof |
| **Circulation Manager** | Lu O'Connor |

**Phone: 231-448-2254** **Email: editor@beaverislandhistory.org** **Mail: PO Box 295, Beaver Island, MI 49782**

Hello readers,

This April, the Northern Islander is proud to celebrate its third anniversary. With this issue, we mark our 37th edition published under the ownership of the Beaver Island Historical Society. Our team is incredibly grateful for your continued readership and support along the way.

We truly hope you have enjoyed the many stories shared each month in the Northern Islander. From community features and local history to seasonal updates and Island happenings, it has been a pleasure to bring these stories to life. Our team has enjoyed every step of this journey, and we are thankful to be part of such a vibrant and engaged community.

This month, we are excited to introduce a new column, "Sponsor Spotlight," where we recognize and celebrate the businesses and individuals who support the Northern Islander. Their contributions play a vital role in making this publication possible, and we are proud to highlight their stories, achievements, and connections to Beaver Island. It is through their support, along with yours, that we are able to continue delivering fun, engaging, and meaningful local journalism each month.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of the Northern Islander, we would love to hear from you. Please contact our team at 231-448-2254 or email editor@beaverislandhistory.org for more information.

In this issue, you will also find coverage of the East Side paving project, which is set to move forward this year. Our article provides background on the project and shares a range of community perspectives. As always, we encourage open and respectful dialogue. If you have thoughts you would like to share, we welcome letters to the editor or guest opinion pieces. Please feel free to reach out to us at editor@beaverislandhistory.org. You can read more about the project and community feedback on pages 6 and 7.

As we celebrate this milestone, we are filled with gratitude and excitement for the future. The Northern Islander has grown in meaningful ways over the past three years, and we look forward to continuing to serve the Beaver Island community, and our extended community of readers around the world, for years to come.

Happy reading,
Elsie Burton
Editor of the Northern Islander

**Beaver Island Historical Society Board of Directors:**

President: Tracy Paquin
Vice President: Angel LeFevre-Welke
Secretary: Kim Bousquet
Treasurer: Jacqueline LaFreniere
Executive Director: Lori Taylor-Blitz

Trustee: George Broder
Trustee: Joe Callian
Trustee: Craig Turnbull
Trustee: Sue Screven
Trustee: Dave Case

**GET YOUR NORTHERN ISLANDER SUBSCRIPTION TODAY!**

*Annual Subscription Rates*

| | |
|---|---|
| Print Only (In-State) | **$50.00** |
| Print Only (Out of State) | **$65.00** |
| Digital Only | **$48.00** |
| Print & Digital (In State) | **$62.00** |
| Print & Digital (Out of State) | **$77.00** |

NORTHERN ISLANDER

**To set up an annual subscription, call the Beaver Island Historical Society at (231) 448-2254**

# PRINT SHOP PERSPECTIVE

*By Lori Taylor-Blitz*

***Since 1957, The Beaver Island Historical Society has been working to keep Beaver Island History Alive! We advance this goal through a mission of preserving and sharing the unique history of Beaver Island and the Archipelago.***

Winter has a way of inviting reflection, but it is also a time when we quietly begin building for summer. This past week's blizzard offered a familiar reminder of life on Beaver Island. Snow piled high, winds reshaped the landscape, and yet neighbors checked in, helped one another, and carried on. That steady resilience and sense of community remain among our greatest strengths.

There is a certain clarity that follows a storm. As the Island settles and the paths are cleared once again, we return to the work ahead with renewed focus.

Behind the scenes at the Print Shop Museum and the Marine Museum, that work continues. Conversations are already turning toward 2026—toward fresh ideas, returning friends, and new faces who will help us bring the Island's stories to life.

**WE ARE RECRUITING 2026 DOCENTS**

If you have ever thought, "I love this place and wish I could share it," this is your invitation. We are now building our 2026 docent team for both museums.

Volunteer shifts are simple and manageable:
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. or 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

That is it—three hours of welcoming visitors, answering questions, and helping people connect with Beaver Island's remarkable maritime and island history.

The perks include:
- Camaraderie with a warm, spirited team of volunteers
- Early access to exhibits and programs
- Museum shop discounts
- Invitations to docent gatherings and special previews
- The joy of being part of the first draft of history as it unfolds each summer

Most of all, you become part of a living community of storytellers. Visitors arrive curious ; they leave connected. You will find that conversations about Irish heritage, commercial fishing, migration, shipwrecks, Mormon settlement, Gutsy Women, the islands of the archipelago, and resilience are as enriching for us as they are for them.

Training is provided. Enthusiasm is required. Everything else grows naturally.

**JOIN OUR MARKETING COMMITTEE**
***Help Us Shape Museum Week 2026***

We are welcoming new members to our Marketing Committee. If you enjoy brainstorming themes, shaping events, writing content, improving digital communications, or thinking creatively about how to engage a community, this is meaningful work.

In 2026, we will host Museum Week with the theme "Incredible Islanders," paired with special America 250-aligned programming that connects Beaver Island's stories to the larger national story unfolding during the semiquincentennial year.

Committee members help to:
- Plan and select Museum Week themes
- Develop and host Incredible Islander events
- Support special America 250 lectures and presentations
- Create cultural content through exhibits, articles, and programs
- Coordinate promotional ideas across print, digital, and in-person channels
- Assist with refreshing and updating the Society's website so events, exhibits, Kids Camp details, and America 250 programming are easy to find and beautifully presented

Refreshing our website is an important part of this work. We welcome volunteers who enjoy organizing content, updating pages, improving navigation, and helping ensure that our digital presence reflects the energy of our museums. Strong communication helps us serve members, visitors, and researchers alike.

Cultural content does not happen by accident. It happens because people decide that local stories matter. If you want to help shape how Beaver Island sees itself—and how others see us—this is a meaningful way to serve.

**2026 KIDS CAMP**

Mark your calendars now. Kids Camp 2026 will take place from July 20 to July 24, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

We are pleased to share that Britt Rittof will serve as our Kids Camp Coordinator this year. Many of you know Britt through her thoughtful work as an Editorial Assistant for the Northern Islander. She brings creativity, organization, and a genuine love of Island youth to this role.

Registration is now open. Visit our website at www.beaverislandhistory.org, or call , or stop by the office at 231-448-2254. Camp continues to grow as one of our most joyful programs, connecting Island children to maritime skills, local history, nature, crafts, and storytelling in hands-on ways.

We are also accepting applications for the 2026 counselor positions. Please contact the office or email editorassistant@beaverislandhistory.org for more information.

It is one of the clearest examples of how we invest in the future.

**THE POLLINATOR GARDEN AT THE PRINT SHOP**

If you have walked past the Print Shop Museum, you may have noticed our Pollinator Garden. What began as a simple beautification effort has become a small but meaningful habitat space. It supports bees, butterflies, and native plants while adding charm to our historic setting.

We welcome new ideas and volunteers for the garden. Would you like to help plant, divide perennials, design signage, or incorporate educational elements that connect pollination to Island agriculture and environmental history? Let us talk. Even small contributions make a visible difference.

**WHY IT MATTERS**

Every docent shift, every marketing meeting, every website update, every garden hour, and every camp activity strengthens the same mission: we are preserving and sharing Beaver Island's history while keeping it alive and relevant for the next generation. The museums are not just buildings. They are gathering places. They are conversation starters. They are spaces where children ask questions, elders share memories, and visitors discover that Beaver Island's story is both uniquely local and deeply American.

As we prepare for 2026—with Museum Week, Incredible Islander events, America 250 programming, Kids Camp, and new volunteers—we are reminded that history is not static. It is participatory.

As we move from winter's challenges toward the promise of summer, we carry forward that same spirit. It is steady, collaborative, and forward-looking. Like every season on Beaver Island, what we build together now will shape what welcomes people when the doors open and the stories begin again.

If you would like to serve as a docent, join the Marketing Committee, help with the Pollinator Garden, or learn more about Kids Camp, please reach out to us. There is room for you at the table and in the story.

With gratitude for all who continue to make this work possible,

Lori Taylor-Blitz
Executive Director
Beaver Island Historical Society
231-448-2254
Director@beaverislandhistory.org

# HOGARTH WINS PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

*By Elsie Burton*

## SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

The Northern Islander is proud to bring Beaver Island and friends of the community regular, reliable news, events, and history. Each month, our team carefully curates and sources interesting and engaging content. Creating each edition takes hard work, time, talent, and research. It is largely thanks to our sponsors that we are able to continue our mission of keeping local journalism alive.

As you flip through the pages of each edition, notice the many businesses and nonprofits that play a part in supporting our mission. Whether they remain with us for one month or several years, we recognize the significance and impact they make in sustaining our local news source.

In honor of our sponsors' commitment to the Northern Islander and our mission, we proudly introduce our "Sponsor Spotlight." In this recurring column, we take the time to slow down and acknowledge the wonderful businesses and nonprofits that aid in our mission.

This month, our team at the Northern Islander offers a special and proud congratulations to Ken "Butch" Hogarth of Hogarth's Pest Control and Wildlife Removal.

This February, Hogarth received the Professional of the Year Award from the National Wildlife Control Operators Association (NWCOA). He was honored at the NWCOA and National Pest Management Association (NPMA) Wildlife Expo, held at the Hollywood Resort & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, from February 10–12. The NWCOA Professional of the Year Award is granted to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the industry and is selected from professionals operating all over the country. This award recognizes excellence and success in the wildlife control industry.

When reflecting on the honor, Hogarth shared, "Thank you to my crew—without them I could not have done this. And, thank you to my customers. I love them all and love that I can help them."

The NWCOA has been bringing wildlife control specialists together for over 20 years, and Hogarth has been a member since its inception. For many years, not only was he a member, but he also shared his DJ talents at various events—something he is well known for on Beaver Island, where he has performed at many local venues. This year, he received an award that is incredibly well deserved, recognizing his talents and dedication to the profession.

Butch and his wife, Holly Hogarth, founded Hogarth's Pest Control and Wildlife Removal in 1994. Today, they operate twelve trucks, employ 15 people, and serve customers throughout northern Michigan, including our very own Beaver Island. Their services help people enjoy the comfort of their homes and properties without the nuisance of pests.

Hogarth is an outstanding pest control provider, certified as an Advanced Wildlife Control Operator, Bat Standards Compliant, and a Level 1 and 2 Urban Sharpshooter through the NWCOA. He also holds certifications through the Association for Certified Rope Access Building Assessment Technicians (ACRABAT) Catastrophe Rope and Harness Course, is a Bird Barrier Certified Installer, and is now the proud recipient of the NWCOA Professional of the Year Award.

The Hogarth's team has been providing services to the Beaver Island community for 27 years, and Butch has been a homeowner on the Island for roughly 15 of those years. He has become an active member of the community. As you spend time on Beaver Island, you are likely to run into Butch and his family as they visit regularly, supporting the community and its traditions. If you have been out and about during the summer season, you may have seen him providing his DJ services at local events.

Hogarth's Pest Control and Wildlife Removal is a wonderful, family-owned and operated business that the Northern Islander is proud to support and to be sponsored by. Thank you for supporting us over the years, and congratulations, Butch, on your well-earned award.

If you are interested in utilizing Hogarth's Pest Control and Wildlife Removal services, whether you live on or off Beaver Island, visit their website at hogarthspestcontrol.com or call 231-264-6060.

Celebrating over 30 years in business!

HOGARTH'S

Pest Control Company

Wildlife & Animal Removal

CONTACT US TODAY!
(231) 264-6060 OR (800) 264-6161

www.hogarthspestcontrol.com | info@hogarthspestcontrol.com

"THE BUG STOPS HERE!"

SPECIALIZING IN
CARPENTER ANTS, SPIDERS & WEB SWEEPING, RODENTS, WASPS,
BATS, AND ALL OF YOUR PEST AND WILDLIFE CONTROL NEEDS!

LOCAL | FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

# NEW COMMUNITY BREAKFAST OPTION: OPEN HANDS CAFÉ

*By Elsie Burton*

Residents and visitors on Beaver Island now have a new opportunity to gather for a warm meal and friendly conversation. The Open Hands Café has announced the launch of The Breakfast Club, a welcoming new community breakfast ministry.

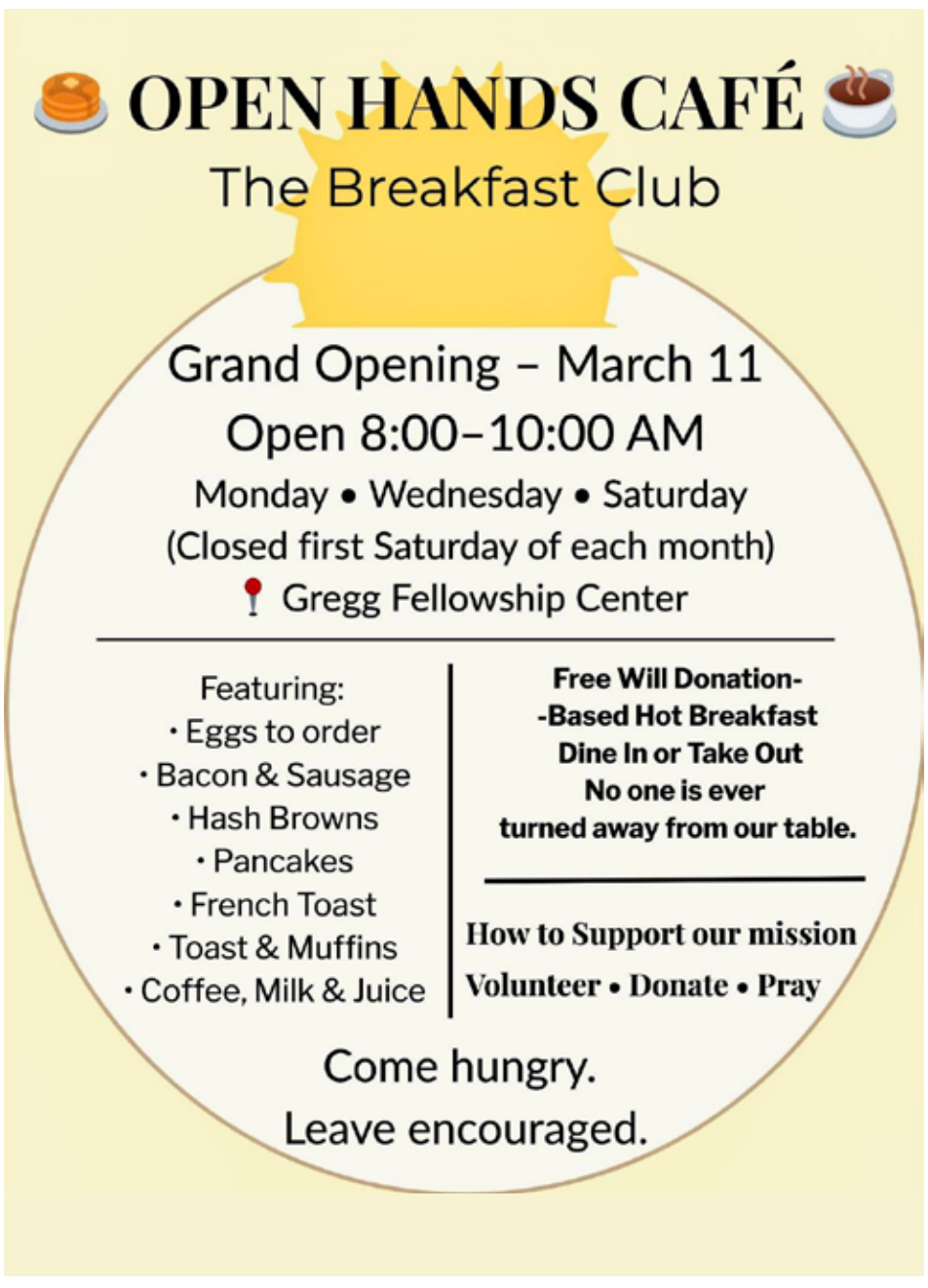
On Wednesday, March 11, the café served a hot breakfast to celebrate its grand opening. The café is now officially open three days each week: Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, with the exception of the first Saturday of each month, when it will be closed. Breakfast is available from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

The meals are offered on a free-will donation basis, ensuring that everyone in the community has the opportunity to enjoy a delicious start to their day. Organizers emphasize that all are welcome at the table, regardless of their ability to contribute.

Breakfast is served at the Gregg Fellowship Hall, where guests can dine in and share in conversation, or take their meal to go. In addition to hot food and fresh coffee, the program aims to foster connection and strengthen community bonds.

Volunteers with the Open Hands Café say their mission is simple, "to share Christ's love through hospitality, nourishment, and community." They expressed gratitude, stating, "Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we begin this new ministry here on Beaver Island."

All are welcome and encouraged to stop by, enjoy breakfast, and help celebrate this new gathering space on the island.



# ROAD PAVING PROJECT CAUSES CONTROVERSY

*By Elsie Burton*

Over the winter, a long-anticipated road improvement opportunity here has become a point of major concern and consternation, generating dozens of letters and emails to the Charlevoix County Road Commission (CCRC), the Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners, and officials with both local townships.

The precipitating catalyst is the repaving this year of the municipal airport's Runway 9-27, which will provide a new asphalt surface. Last completed in 2001, approved contracts this time total over six million dollars. Funding comes from the Federal Aviation Administration (94%), the State of Michigan (3%), and our two townships (1.5% each).

The runway project requires bringing in a specialty paving machine. Knowing this, both townships have considered various ways to make use of this rare, once-every-couple-of-decades situation.

The municipal airport is located in Peaine Township. In February 2023, then-Supervisor Doug Tilly wrote to the CCRC and communicated Peaine's official position. He recommended paving be performed to both the municipal airport and the privately owned Island Airways/Welke Airport (also located in Peaine). Regarding the Welke airport, this necessitated reclassifying East Side Drive from a county local road to a county primary designation, which did eventually occur.

For the municipal airport, Tilly urged the CCRC to pave from Kings Highway on Paid Een Og Road to Donnel Mor's Lane. For Welke, he suggested paving from the Kings Highway Four Corners to a county-owned parcel next to the Little Sand Bay Preserve. These 2023 policy positions have never been modified.

In March 2023, there was a Joint Annual Meeting of both townships and the CCRC. Meeting minutes state that no representative from Peaine was present. Saint James Township Supervisor Bobbi Welke and Trustee Vicky Fingeroot did attend. Inconsistent with the February 2023 Tilly letter from Peaine Township, Welke reported that Peaine would prefer East Side Drive to be paved rather than Paid Een Og Road.

In January 2024, at the next Joint Annual CCRC meeting, new Peaine Supervisor Maria Dal Pra asked how the CCRC selects roads for paving. In reply, Commissioner Ogden said their Steering Committee meets annually to establish current-year projects. The meeting minutes offer no more information on the subject.

With this background, as recently as last fall, many members of the island community believed the CCRC would be paving just past Welke Airport, perhaps as far as the golf course. Some were aware that Paid Een Og had been dropped, and the municipal airport would remain accessible only by gravel.

At the November 18, 2025, Peaine Board meeting, Supervisor Dal Pra said the CCRC intends to pave East Side Drive all the way to Sand Bay, past the CMU campus, to McCauley's Road. This subject was not on the Board's published agenda. It was mentioned only in passing.

Members of the public at the meeting asked the supervisor to confirm what she had said, which she did, and then asked her and the Peaine Board to officially oppose the plan. In response, the public was advised that, since it is a County Road Commission project, and because there are some who support it, the Peaine Board had no authority and would stay out of the matter.

*(Note: At that moment on November 18, none of the members of the public present were aware of the February 2023 Doug Tilly letter.)*

As of now, the CCRC intends to proceed as planned. A contract has been awarded to Rieth-Riley Construction Co., the sole bidder. The company also holds the contract for the airport runway.

Since November 18, a group of several dozen residents has been working to change the CCRC plan. Comprised of both year-round and summer residents from both townships, they argue that, in the interest of public safety, EMS ambulance service, and law enforcement, it makes no sense not to pave access roads to both airports. They say the once-in-a-generation opportunity to use the paving machine should be used to reach both locations. They support paving to Welke, noting that, as a private business, there is no guarantee it will always be in operation. The municipal airport, they argue, will remain in service for as long as there is a substantial, thriving population on the Emerald Isle. They also note that the U.S. Coast Guard uses the municipal airport nearly 100% of the time when responding to the Island.

Last December, a letter to the CCRC was circulated for signatures. The wording was in clear support of paving to Welke. It was silent on the municipal airport question and imprecise regarding paving East Side Drive to McCauley's.

The CCRC maintains that it is paving to McCauley's because of the high cost of dust control efforts and general grading maintenance required throughout the year. The savings, they say, will be significant for their annual budgets.

Road Commission Manager Pat Weeks said "I recognize the project seems daunting. It abides by the most recent approved millage vote, which specified East Side Drive."

Over one-hundred trees, including dozens of decades-old, possibly genetically unique apple trees on East Side Drive, have been marked for removal.

The runway rehabilitation and related island projects are scheduled to be completed this summer.

---

The Northern Islander has sought op-ed perspectives on the road paving controversy, both in support of and in opposition to the project. Peaine Supervisor Dal Pra declined to provide a statement for this article. St. James Supervisor Welke gives her position on the matter on page 7.

Additional opinions can be shared to editor@beaverislandhistory.org for consideration of publication in the Northern Islander.

---

# GUEST COMMENTARY ON EAST SIDE PAVING PROJECT

## BACKGROUND ON PLANS FOR PAVING EAST SIDE DRIVE

*Submitted by Bobbi Welke*

Government transparency and responsiveness are essential. Here is my edited response to Ms. Mary Beth Kur's March 1, 2026, open letter to Peaine and St. James Township board members about paving East Side Drive and Paid Een Og's Road to the Beaver Island Airport. At the Peaine Township Board meeting on November 18, 2025, I learned for the first time that East Side Drive would be paved all the way to Tom McCauley Road.

### EMAIL RESPONSE DATED MARCH 9, 2026

Dear Ms. Kur,

I would like to clarify several points regarding comments made in your email dated 3/1/26.

Trustee Fingeroot and I attended a meeting on 3/20/23 with the Charlevoix County Road Commission (CCRC) specifically to provide input on CCRC plans and St. James Township's road goals and funding.

We did not claim to represent Peaine Township at that meeting, nor were we aware of any prior interest from Peaine officials in paving other roads. A Peaine Township official was invited to the meeting but was unable to attend.

During this meeting, we discussed a portion of East Side Drive that is critical for all Islanders, particularly as it serves the highest volume of ambulance runs for medical evacuation flights. All Islanders contribute to the county road millage and are entitled to a voice in how those tax dollars are allocated. [This brief discussion covered the section of East Side Drive between King's Hwy to CCRC's property just to the south of Welke Airport.]

In the three years since, the CCRC has held additional public meetings that were open to both townships and the public for further input on roads on Beaver Island.

Regarding the designation of East Side Drive as a primary county road: this change makes its paving eligible for CCRC funding rather than township funding. This also reduces township expenses by eliminating costs for gravel and dust control.

My involvement in this process was as a private citizen and volunteer. I utilized my thirty-plus years of experience as a civil engineer with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to assist Peaine Township officials in preparing the necessary documentation. Both the CCRC and MDOT subsequently approved Peaine Township's request.

I have provided similar volunteer engineering assistance for other projects, including inventorying island-wide road culverts and rehabilitating the East Side Fire Hall. Volunteerism is a hallmark of Beaver Island community members.

Best regards,
Bobbi Welke
Supervisor, St. James Township
Volunteer Engineer

## PAVING TO BOTH AIRPORTS SHOULD HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED

*Submitted by Mary Beth Kur*

Peaine Township asked the Road Commission to pave to both airports in a 2023 letter from Supervisor Doug Tilly. Peaine Township has never reversed course on this preference. However, over the past two years, the St. James Township Supervisor, Bobbi Welke, was instrumental in convincing the Road Commission to not follow the stated position of the entire Peaine Township governmental body.

She didn't want paving to both airports, so she had East Side Drive designated as a "primary road" by the State of Michigan. When questioned about this activity that was obviously out of her jurisdiction, she said "My involvement in this process was as a private citizen and volunteer." That does not pass the proverbial smell test. My client, Bud Martin agrees with Peaine Township's 2023 stated preference and that is that our tax dollars should be used to pave to the private and the public airports. Paving the entirety of East Side Drive to McCauley's road is foolish and a waste of precious resources. Our tax revenue resources are rarely used by the powers that be to benefit our island. We should have a say in what goes on.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear editor,

Pave to and stop at Jewell Drive—Pave on Paid Een Og to Donnell Mohr to the Beaver Island Airport.

Your money and mine, our property tax dollars will be spent wisely. Doing it now will save lots of money. It's for our future and what's best for the community.

*- Bud Martin, Business Owner and life long Islander*

BINGHAM INSURANCE Charlevoix
231.547.4062
info@binghaminsurance.net

Auto-Owners INSURANCE
LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

McDonough Construction Inc.
*Over 30 years in business!*

Office: 231-448-3038

Office Location:
36626 Kings Hwy, Beaver Island
**(Building 3 behind the Eager Beaver Clean and Store)**

mcdonoughconstructioninc@gmail.com

***General Contractors Specializing in:***

- Commercial Construction
- Residential Construction
- Property Management Construction
- Home, Cottage, & Cabin Consultations
- Applegate Spray Foam Insulation
- Insurance Claims
- Water Mitigation
- Garages, Pole Barns & Decks
- Excavation
- Home Remodeling
- Foundations
- Concrete Flat Work

**Ed Wojan Realty**

"Your ***Key*** to Beaver Island"

- Selling Beaver Island Real Estate since 1976
- Invaluable Island Knowledge
- Realtor Emeritus of National Association of Realtors
- 5th Generation Island Resident
- Drawing Director Wojan/Cashman Beaver Island Map
- An Expert at Arranging Financing
- Reputation for Detail and Accurate Closings
- Generously Facilitated the Conversion of 80 Private Properties to Public Land for Everyone's Enjoyment

**Edward B. Wojan – Broker**
**231-313-8682 Cell**

26300 Back Highway P.O. Box 86
Beaver Island, MI 49782

www.edwojanrealty.com
info@edwojanrealty.com

**231-448-2711 Office**

REALTOR® MULTIPLE LISTING SERVICE MLS®

Beaver Island District Library

Nibwaakaawin

**AMERICA 250**

We are collecting stories and observations celebrating our country's 250th anniversary. What are the highlights of the last 250 years? What do you feel is the best thing about our country? How will you contribute to making a positive impact on the country in the future? Submissions will be combined into a book format in May.

Please submit entries prior to the end of April. Keep it positive, please—it is a celebration!

**BEAVER TALES**

Beaver Tales is still in the works but is being postponed until June. We need storytellers and songsters to perform. We have a lot of stories gathered from the old Beaver Beacons from which to choose. Contact the library if interested!

**MOVIES AT THE BIC CENTER: APRIL 11**

3 p.m. A family en route to New Guinea is shipwrecked on a deserted tropical island. They are forced to remain on the island because of damage to the ship and pirates roaming the area.

6 p.m. Tom Hanks stars as Chuck Noland, a Federal Express efficiency expert who is stranded on a remote island after his plane crashes. Forced to survive in isolation, he undertakes a journey of self-discovery that transforms him both physically and emotionally.

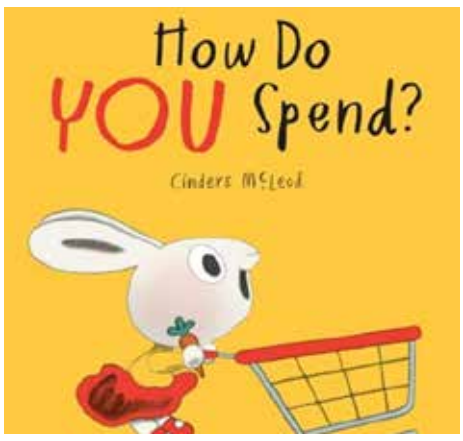
**APRIL IS…**

This month, the BIDL Seed Library will offer Pacific Beauty Calendula seeds from the Michigan Seed Library Network's One Seed, One State program. These edible, medicinal flowers are also great for natural dyes. To celebrate America's 250th, we're providing red, white, and blue edible flower seeds—phlox, sweet alyssum, and cornflowers—perfect for salads or as pollinator-friendly blooms. Our spring collection also includes arugula, parsley, and the vegetable of the year, cabbage. Visit the library for free seeds while supplies last!

Many of our organizations love to have volunteers. Check out the Facebook page, Beaver Island Volunteers, for organizations requesting helping hands!

5 easy ways to celebrate NATIONAL POETRY MONTH
READ
Read and analyze poems to discover the characteristics of the poetry genre.
SHARE
Make poetry special by sharing selected poems with particular students or colleagues.
WRITE
Write poems all month long in different forms and styles to cultivate a love of poetry
STUDY
Study and research different poets Learn about their lives and their work as poets.
LISTEN
Listen to poetry in the form of music or poet's reading their own poems out loud

**HOW DO YOU SPEND?**




How Do You Spend is the featured children's book this month. Special programming will take place throughout the month. Copies of the book will be available at the library.

**KIDS STUFF**

Babies and Toddlers continues to meet on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.—a social hour for both kids and adults!

The homeschool meet-up gathers on Tuesdays at 2:15 p.m. to offer STEM and other activities for elementary homeschool students.

Afterschool clubs run Monday through Friday until 5 p.m.:

Mondays: Craft Club
Tuesdays: Taste the World
Wednesdays: Lego Club
Thursdays: STEM Club
Fridays: Board Games

Fiero Code/Girls Who Code meets on Saturdays at 1 p.m. This is a time for kids to learn how to code, create their own games, and more!

**READ FOR THE RECORD**

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Read for the Record program. The book See Marcus Grow by Marcus Bridgewater was read by 11th–12th graders with 2nd through 4th graders. Over the course of the last six months, all previous books were read in the 2nd grade class to celebrate this record year.

**IDITAREAD PROGRAM AND DOGSLEDDING AT THE BIDL**

Director Jacque LaFreniere brings her dog sled to the school/library each year and teaches the kids about dogsledding and the Iditarod. During the presentation, the best part is when the kids get to be "dogs" or "mushers" and pull the sled around.

The IditaRead program challenges kids to read a certain number of pages or minutes to advance along the IditaRead trail, which represents the Iditarod Trail sled dog race.

**A WORD ABOUT CYBERSECURITY**

Let's talk about "passwords"—the single most important aspect of using accounts on the internet. What we were taught to focus on in the past can now be easily hacked by AI.

Instead of traditional passwords, think "passphrase." A passphrase is much easier to recall because it's something personal to you. Here are examples:

MyCatLovesPurpleTacos
RainyDayCoffee

Whatever phrase you choose can be used for all accounts with a simple addition of a symbol, number, or variation:

MyCatLovesPurpleTacos@Amz1 (Amazon account)
MyCatLovesPurpleTacos@Gma1 (Gmail account)
MyCatLovesPurpleTacos@Wal1 (Walmart account)

The most important thing to remember: choose something memorable for you.

**PURCHASE A BOOK SPINE**

The Beaver Island District Library
Endowment Fund

A Unique Way to Honor a Special Person in Your Life or
The Perfect Present For The Person That Has Everything!

Purchase a beautifully engraved wooden book spine, personalized to honor friends and family, as a memorial or thank you, to display in the Beaver Island Library.

3" spine $300
2" spine $200
1" spine $100

Please write the name(s) in the space below.
Each book can display up to 26 characters.

Name(s) or message on spine:_____
Book Shelf to be placed upon:_____
Friends of the Library)

Ordered by:

Name: _____
Email/Phone:_____
Street:_____
City/St/Zip:_____

Please make checks payable to:
The Beaver Island District Library Endowment Fund
26400 Donegal Bay Road, Beaver Island, MI 49782
Donations are tax deductible up to the full extent of the law.
Please consult your financial advisor.

**3" Spine - $300**
**2" Spine - $200**
**1" Spine - $100**

Contact the Beaver Island District Library for more information at 231-448-2701.

# ELKS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR HONORS JUDI MEISTER

Beaver Island Elks #2886 is proud to celebrate Judi Meister as this year's Elks Citizen of the Year, recognizing a lifetime of quiet leadership, steady service, and unwavering commitment to others.

Judi is not someone who seeks recognition. Instead, she has built her reputation through years of dependable, thoughtful work that strengthens the fabric of island life. Through her leadership with the Christian Church and the Beaver Island Food Pantry, she has ensured that neighbors in need are met with dignity, compassion, and care. Her efforts have helped sustain essential services that many in the community rely on, often without fanfare and always with purpose.

What sets Judi apart is not only the depth of her service, but the way she carries it out. She is a firm and decisive leader, yet one who listens carefully and acts fairly. She does not play favorites, and she does not allow politics to guide her decisions. Instead, she approaches every situation with integrity and a deep respect for others, earning the trust of those around her.

In a small community, leadership often happens behind the scenes. It is found in the steady hands that organize, the thoughtful voices that guide, and the consistent presence of those who care deeply about their neighbors. Judi Meister embodies all of these qualities.

She is, above all, a respected friend to everyone. Her kindness, fairness, and strength have made a lasting impact on Beaver Island, and this recognition as Elks Citizen of the Year is both well deserved and deeply appreciated.

On behalf of a grateful community, congratulations, Judi. Your work matters, and it does not go unnoticed.

*Pictured (Left to Right): Beth Croswhite, Judi Meister, and Ann Partridge*

McDonough's Market, Inc.

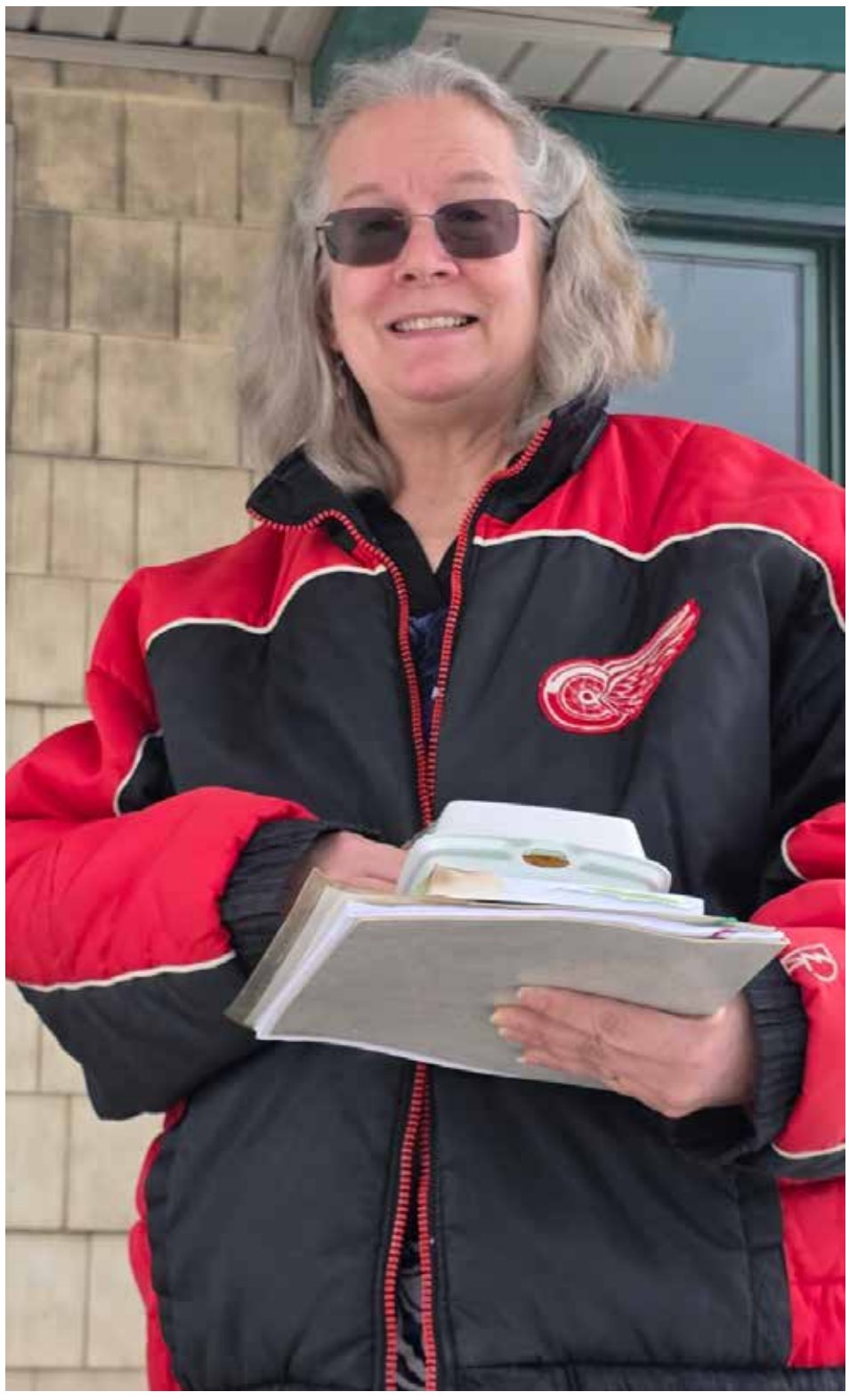
OVER 90 YEARS OF FAMILY FRIENDLY SERVICE!

- Full Line of Groceries
- Specialty Foods
- Fresh Cut Meat
- Cards & Gifts
- Fresh Produce & Dairy
- Beer, Wine & Liquor
- Beaver Island Clothing
- Household Goods

231-448-2733
38240 Michigan Ave
Beaver Island, MI 49782
mcdonoughsmarket.com

# ON THE FRONT PORCH WITH ELIZABETH SCHWANDT

*By Michelle LaFreniere*



Elizabeth Anne Wilcox Schwandt comes from a long line of ancestors here on the island. She is a "Buffalo Malloy," not to be confused with the "Butcher Malloys." She was always told that the two Malloy families were not related, but in her extensive ancestry and DNA searches, she has found that to be untrue. The families are related. Fun fact: Buffalo's real name was Austin Hugh Malloy. He got this nickname because he was a stowaway on a ship bound for Buffalo, New York. Liz was born in Canada in 1961 to Douglas Edwin Wilcox and Mary Kathleen Malloy Wilcox. She was the fourth child of five. It took her a long time to get here.

She first visited the island in 2002 for her nephew's memorial service. She and her husband came and stayed at the Harbor View Motel (I happened to be the resident manager then!). They were both taken aback by the quietness and peacefulness of the island. Leroy said to her that he thought he could get used to this; she agreed.

The following summer, they returned with their children (they have five). It was during this visit that they purchased the property where they currently live. She wanted a place in town; he wanted hunting property. He won, but she is okay with that since she gets to town often.

In 2012, they went to Ireland for the best vacation Liz said she had ever had (two weeks touring and one week on Arranmore). The next year, they had Mike Collins and his crew build their home on Fox Lake Road. Liz loves it. On her living room wall is a painting of a family tree that her daughter, Jaime Leigh, painted. It is spectacular.

Leroy decided that he needed a pole barn. They ended up with a Quonset hut. It is bigger than the house. It doesn't exactly go with the theme of the house, but Liz is grateful for it. A visiting cousin once called it an "alien car wash." She has about one quarter of it filled with antiques for the Beaver Head Lighthouse (South End). It is currently in the process of being redone, and Liz is excited to have so much period furniture to donate to it. She has been collecting it for some time. Some pieces are from her family. One piece is a Singer sewing machine with a treadle, and she even has the original paperwork on how to use it.

Liz has a few hobbies that she enjoys in her downtime. Her most notable—and the one she probably spends the most time on—is genealogy. She calls it her little addiction. I was floored by the sheer knowledge she had of so many island families and their connections. She has helped many, many people, not necessarily islanders, with their ancestry. She wrote two chapters in the second book about family history that the Historical Society put out. Her interest in family history began as a little girl. She was a grandpa's girl and loved to listen to him tell stories. Her grandpa never knew his birth mother. Her name was Bridget Boyle (not the Boyle family of my ancestors, but the Boyles of Mike Boyle's Beach).

Liz spends time volunteering at the Resale Shop. She loves it, although I have never found a volunteer from there who did not love it.

She is the new overseer of Holy Cross Cemetery. Liz has agreed to help me organize another headstone cleaning group. We did that quite a few years ago. It was a wonderful project that our community did together. Look for more information on this in the spring/early summer.

We spoke a lot about families—the number of children they had, who were related, and who were not. So much history. It is important that we all endeavor to find ways to preserve the histories of our own families. Someday, we will be the ancestors.

Other hobbies include quilting and professional and college sports. Her favorites are the Detroit Lions, the Red Wings, and U of M football. She truly enjoys watching them. She is a rockhound with a rock tumbler, which is right up my alley. I can see our new friendship blossoming.

As for her and Leroy, they almost did not get married. He was in the Navy, stationed in Tacoma, Washington. Liz loved him, but he was so far from home, and she really wasn't keen on leaving her family. Love prevailed, and they made the distance work. They had five children and now have 16 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Their daughter Becky and her family live here on the island now. Becky is currently retyping the Journal of Beaver Island History, Volume 1.

Of their five children, in birth order—Katie, Becky, Jaime, Christopher, and Emily—Becky is living here, and Christopher is building a cabin near his parents. I wonder how long before the others realize their heritage is here.

My head was swimming with the knowledge that she shared with me. I can't wait to sit down again with a large piece of paper and be able to write down the connections. It is really very interesting. Liz could not pick a favorite place on the island when asked. She says everywhere on the island is her favorite. We shared our favorite rock-hounding beaches. We will be meeting up this summer for that. Our lunch was long, but it flew by. I was so tickled to spend the afternoon learning so much. Thanks so much, Liz! I am glad you are here.

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Keeping Island History Alive*

*Established 1957*

# 2026 Kids Camp

**from July 20th to July 24th** | **Beaver Island, Michigan** | **$150 per child**

**Get ready for an unforgettable summer camp packed with laughter, new friendships, and thrilling adventures tailored just for kids!**

**www.beaverislandhistory.org/kids-camp/**

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Keeping Island History Alive*

# HIRING Counselors

**The Beaver Island Historical Society is seeking energetic staff for Beaver Island's 2026 Kids Camp from July 20-24th, 2026**

**COMPENSATION: $500 STIPEND**

**QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Job Summary: Under the direction of the Camp Coordinator, Counselors will assist with the organization and execution of camp activities.
- Couselors will be assigned a group of kids that they are resposible for supervising. With this, counselors will monitor and participate in all activities. Counselors will be expected to serve as appropriate role models for the children under their care.
- Participate in team training and meetings.
- Lead activities and ensure all children are participating in said activities.
- Supervise all aspects of their group of campers, ranging from lunchtime to organizing fun games during free time, etc.
- Maintain good public relations with campers' parents or guardians.
- Other reasonable duties may be assigned by the Camp Coordinator or BIHS Executive Director

**RESUME DUE APRIL 15TH, 2026 BY 5:00 PM — *editorassistant@beaverislandhistory.org***

**—MUST PASS BACKGROUND CHECK—**

# BEAVER ISLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL

BIMF 26

## GET YOUR KICKS AT BIMF '26

GOOSEBERRY

JONATHAN PLEVYAK

CHARLSEE & CAM

TYLER GITCHEL BAND

LEA MARRA & THE RIVER BOYS

SKITCHFALL

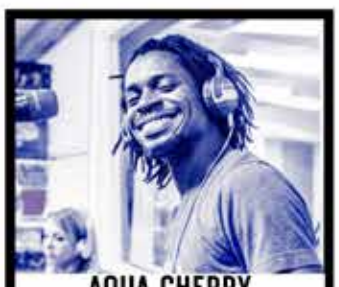
ONE HUMAN BAND

SWEET MEG

G-SNACKS & FIVE

SOUTH FOR WINTER

HYMN FOR HER


AQUA CHERRY

JOE BOCKHEIM

"WINK" WINKLEMAN

DAVE BOUTETTE & KRISTI DAVIS

CALL (231)-330-9945 OR VISIT BIMF.NET FOR MORE INFORMATION

# BEAVER ISLAND RURAL HEALTH CENTER
# PRESIDENT OF BOARD
# VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Beaver Island Rural Health Center Board of Directors invites applications and nominations to serve as director and Board President effective January 1, 2027.

The nine-member board seeks to fill one director position. That person will also serve as board president. Board terms are three years. Directors are not compensated. The BIRHC Board meets every third month in addition to 2-3 special meetings. The president is expected to attend meetings in person.

The candidate should be a collaborator who will champion the cause of the Health Center and be willing to contribute their time and talents to leading the Board. Some essential duties expected of the President include:

- Communicate with all board members on a regular basis to ensure they are aware of Health Center news, facts affecting upcoming board decisions, and committee responsibilities.
- Plan and conduct all board meetings in person.
- Lead, plan, and track fundraising efforts to solicit donations.
- Be involved in grant applications to any organization with potential to fund the Health Center.
- Be a spokesperson for the BIRHC Board of Directors in one on one and group interactions.
- Be the contact person and communicator with Island government officials, off Island government representatives and the leaders of organizations with which the Health Center partners, including occasional travel off Island to meet with these representatives and leaders.
- With the support of board committees and officers, and the BIRHC Managing Director, oversee and plan for the short and long-term financial health of the Health Center.
- With support from the Managing Director and board committees, oversee BIRHC policy and legal compliance.
- Be the liaison between the Board and the Managing Director.

Board members are not required to have a medical background but preferably can contribute expertise, guidance, and dedication in areas that strengthen the Health Center's ability and capacity to pursue its mission.

The Board is responsible for overseeing the fulfillment of the organization's mission, strategic planning, financial oversight, fundraising and contributing to organizational growth through dedicated committees and teamwork.

To apply, please send a resume and a letter of interest with what you hope to contribute to the BIRHC. Letters may be emailed to ann@biruralhealth.org (place Board President Application: in your "Subject" line) or mailed to the BIRHC Selection Committee, PO Box 146, Beaver Island, MI 49782. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

More information about the Health Center operation and services, as well as the Board of Directors may be found on the BIRHC web page: www.biruralhealth.org.

Should you have any questions regarding the application process, please email ann@biruralhealth.org or phone: 231-448-2275.

## Tried and True Family Favorite Recipes

### Ann Weber's Blueberry Streusel Tea Bread

Submitted by Rach Becker

Each month, we will feature recipes that are sure to have you coming back for seconds. These are the recipes that we grew up with and still make today.

Ann (Pigozzi) Weber has been coming to Beaver Island since the late 1970s when her college friend Mary Beth Hannon invited her to come along. They stayed at Mary Beth's brother Bobby's place.

Ann fell in love with the beauty of this special place. After she married Bernie and had Theresa, David, and Richard, they purchased a condo in town. Now retired, Bernie and Ann spend much of the summer on the Island but still go back to the Chicago area frequently for cuddles from the grandkids and other obligations.

Serve this selection at your next brunch.

Blasta!
(Irish for delicious)

**Ingredients:**
2-1/2 cups flour
1-1/2 teaspoons baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 stick butter or margarine, softened
1-1/4 cups sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 large eggs
1 (8 ounce) container of sour cream (regular or light)
1-1/2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries

**Ingredients for the streusel (to top the batter):**
1/4 cup flour
1/4 cup packed light brown sugar
1/8 teaspoon cinnamon
2 Tablespoons butter or margarine
Chopped pecans (optional)

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease a 9x5 loaf pan; dust with flour. In a medium bowl, stir together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. In a large bowl, with a mixer at low speed, beat butter until smooth. Add sugar and beat until creamy. Beat in vanilla. Add eggs, one at a time. Continue beating at low speed until each egg is blended, scraping the bowl occasionally. Add flour mixture alternately with sour cream, beginning and ending with flour, and fold in the blueberries.

For the streusel: Cut butter into flour, brown sugar, and cinnamon. Spoon batter into the pan. Sprinkle streusel over thebatter. Top with chopped pecans. Bake for 1 hour 15 minutes to 1 hour 25 minutes.

# AICR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CANCER PREVENTION

*A Blueprint to Beat Cancer*

**To prevent cancer, people should aim to follow as many of the 10 Cancer Prevention Recommendations as possible. However, any change you make that works toward meeting the goals set out in the Recommendations will go some way to reducing your cancer risk.**

### BE A HEALTHY WEIGHT

Keep your weight within the healthy range and avoid weight gain in adult life

### BE PHYSICALLY ACTIVE

Be physically active as part of everyday life – walk more and sit less

### EAT A DIET RICH IN WHOLE GRAINS, VEGETABLES, FRUITS AND BEANS

Make whole grains, vegetables, fruits and pulses (legumes) such as beans and lentils a major part of your usual daily diet

### LIMIT CONSUMPTION OF RED AND PROCESSED MEAT

Eat no more than moderate amounts of red meat, such as beef, pork and lamb. Eat little, if any, processed meat

### LIMIT CONSUMPTION OF SUGAR-SWEETENED DRINKS

Drink mostly water and unsweetened drinks

### LIMIT CONSUMPTION OF "FAST FOODS" AND OTHER PROCESSED FOODS HIGH IN FAT, STARCHES OR SUGARS

Limiting these foods helps control calorie intake and maintain a healthy weight

### LIMIT ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

For cancer prevention, it's best not to drink alcohol

### FOR MOTHERS: BREASTFEED YOUR BABY, IF YOU CAN

Breastfeeding is good for both mother and baby

### AFTER A CANCER DIAGNOSIS: FOLLOW OUR RECOMMENDATIONS, IF YOU CAN

Check with your health professional about what is right for you

### DO NOT USE SUPPLEMENTS FOR CANCER PREVENTION

Aim to meet nutritional needs through diet alone

American Institute for Cancer Research®
www.aicr.org

Not smoking and avoiding other exposure to tobacco and excess sun are also important in reducing cancer risk.

Following these Recommendations is likely to reduce intakes of salt, saturated and trans fats, which together will help prevent other non-communicable diseases.

## BEAVER ISLAND RURAL HEALTH CENTER


Community Banking on Beaver Island

*Here to serve you all year long*

Charlevoix STATE BANK

Your Local Community Bank

38230 Michigan Ave. • Beaver Island
231-448-2190 • www.charlevoixstatebank.com
Member FDIC



NORTHERN ISLANDER

Follow Us On Social Media

Instagram @northernislanderpaper

Facebook Northern Islander

Our Phone 231-448-2254

Our Website northernislander.news

Our Email editor@beaverislandhistory.org

ISLAND AIRWAYS
BEAVER ISLAND

Operated by McPhillips Flying Service, Inc.
Beaver Island's committed aviation service provider.

Safe, efficient, and fun ride to Beaver Island
Only a 15 minute flight! • Pet Friendly • FAA Certified Air Ambulance
Here to serve all your freight needs.

www.islandairways.com
111 Airport Drive Charlevoix, MI 49720

**Call For Your Reservation Today**
Toll Free: 800-524-6895
Charlevoix: 231-547-2141 • Beaver Island: 231-448-2071

Now *Caring* on Beaver Island!

Islanders Serving Islanders.

We're excited and proud to begin serving the island with compassionate home care and in-home assisted living.

Beaver Island residents, Lonnie, Briana, and Frankie have received their health aide certifications and are looking forward to serving our island community.

- Personal Care
- Companionship
- Housekeeping
- Errands & Transportation
- Delicious Meals
- Alzheimer's & Dementia Care
- Medication Oversight
- Private Duty Nursing

Comfort Keepers®
In-home Care for Seniors

866-929-9044
ComfortKeepersTC.com

# NORTHERN ISLANDER POETRY CONTEST

## ONE MONTH IN

*By Brittney Rittof*

In honor of National Poetry Month, the Northern Islander is happy to present the first submissions for the 2026 Poetry Contest.

David DeGraaf captures the dulcet tones and visual wonders of the shoreline in three, stunningly descriptive pieces. Debra Foti reminisces about island moments and traditions in her short, but charming works.

One phrase used, 'joie de vivre' stuck out the most—admittingly because I didn't know what it meant. Its literal translation means "joy of living," or the happiness it can bring to simply living one's life.

I think it's safe to say that all the poems submitted this month reflect this notion when it comes to the Emerald Isle. From the colors of the natural minerals, to the onomatopoeic language of the fireworks, even the macabre imagery of the animal skulls, these pieces are just the beginning of finding beauty and reflection in the small, overlooked moments of each day on the island.

Both poets managed to draw our attention to the sound of the waves on the islands' shorelines. Mr. DeGraaf's lines, "Lake water's cool and clear / Breaking waves are all I hear" and Ms. Foti's lines, "Its waves make sweet the sounds / Wrap the senses in its bounds," bring forth a sense of peace and reflection. In an instant, we are brought to the beach: the sounds of the water fill our memories so profoundly, we can almost hear the waves breaking again. Mr. DeGraaf brings the vision of the clear water, and with that the smell of lake seaweed, weaving together the very senses that Ms. Foti describes.

These moments differ in perspectives of the respective authors, yet they were brought together under the 'joie de vivre' that we all know and love while being on the island. We all long for that feeling of our first step off the boat or plane, even the full-time residents when they return from the mainland. There is a lightness, a sense of peace, in that first step, as if our entire bodies take a sigh of relief. It's the feeling of "we made it, we're home." This is the feeling that these poems bring, this month. These poems describe the Isle in a way that's special to each and every one of us, and yet, share solidarity and understanding, because—if anything—we can all agree that Beaver Island is a magical place that deserves to be called home.

*Submissions by David DeGraaf*

### *Island Art!*

Wandering tracks
Goose and gull
Shells of a clam
Bones of a skull
Sizes and shapes
Beach of stones
Iron and quartz
Colors and tones
Painting the shore
The artist's hand
Palette of summer
Canvas of sand

### *Summer Hike*

Sandy path along a beach
Monarchs within my reach
Lake water's cool and clear
Breaking waves are all I hear
Horizon meets a rising sun
Up ahead, sandpipers run
Back dune, sedges & ferns
Overhead, gulls & terns
Just another quarter mile
Barefoot on Beaver Isle

### *Island Welcome*

Horn of the Emerald Isle
Too loud to ignore
Sounds of summer
Welcome me once more
Lake Michigan beach
Waves pound the shore
Squeals of soaring gulls
Welcome me once more
Song of a distant Loon
For months I've waited for
Beaver Island serenades
Welcome me once more

*Submissions by Debra Foti*

### *Parade*

Bang, Zing, Zoom
Fireworks do boom!
Love the fourth
Hail the Beaver
All in mirth
Heed the fever.

### *Island Song*

Music, laughter
Bring the crew
Lift your cup ever faster
More than a few
can sing the songs
and bang the gongs!

### *Muse*

Its waves make sweet the sounds
Wrap the senses in its bounds
It fills the air
with 'joie de vivre' and truthful dare
My countenance, my soul, reveal
my gratefulness, my laughing peel.

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT POEMS IS JULY 15, 2026**

Winner will receive $150 & a free, year-long subscription to the *Northern Islander*!*

**OPEN TO ALL AGES WITH AN ISLAND CONNECTION—INCLUDING KIDS!**

**or free admission to Kids Camp, depending on winner's age*

# Community Collage

BEAVER ISLAND AT A GLANCE

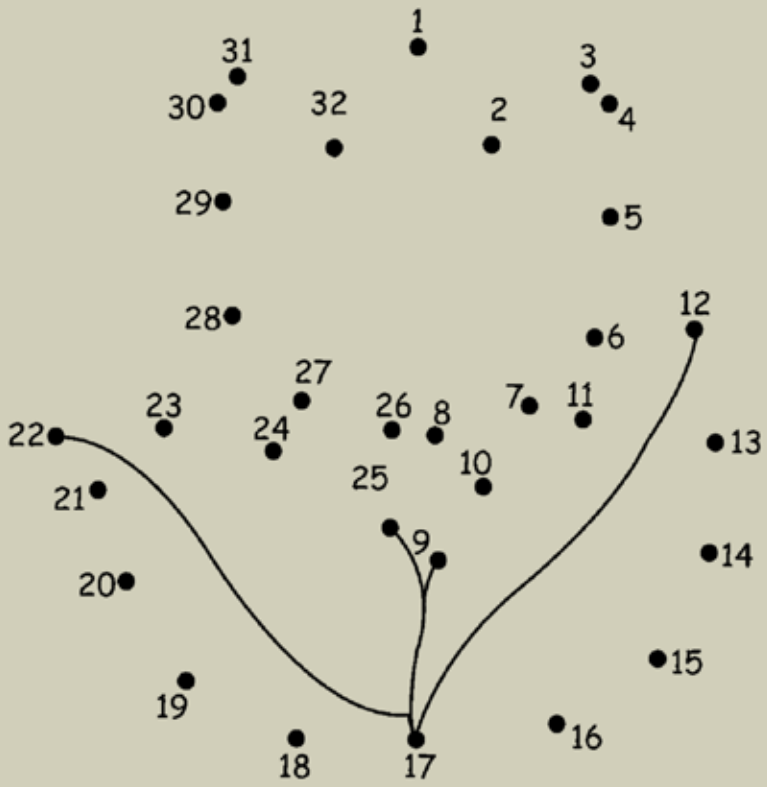
Happy St. Patrick's Day 2026

Photos provided by the Beaver Island Community Center

# The Kids' Corner

Sponsored by Brittney Rittof

Connect the dots to discover another spring flower




Take a look outside! See if you can find anything that starts with these letters:

S _____

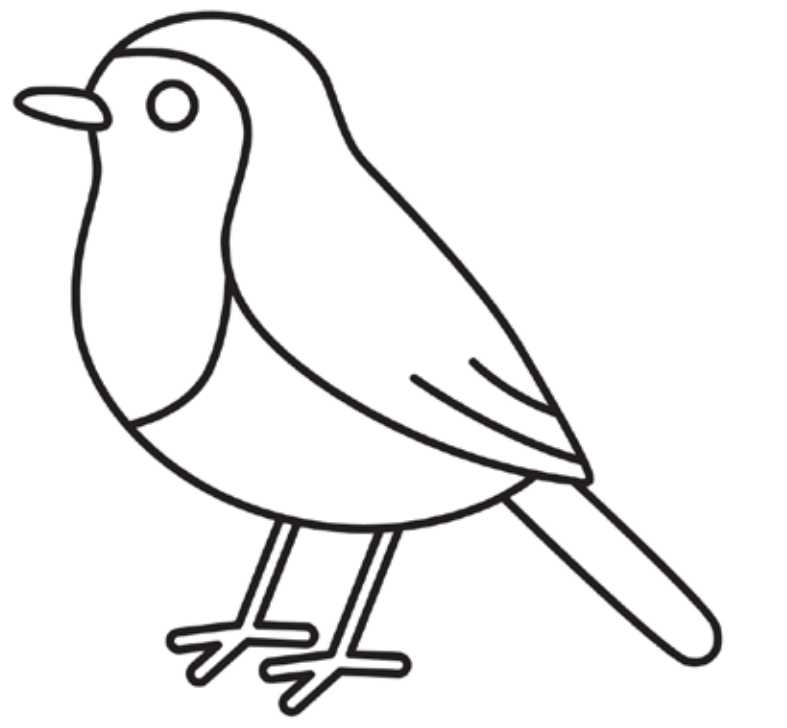
P _____

R _____

I _____

N _____

G _____



Don't forget to bring your completed kids' page to the Beaver Island Print Shop Museum for a prize!

AND, send a picture of you and your page to **editor@beaverislandhistory.org** to be featured in the monthly paper!

## Joke Corner

**Why couldn't the flower ride a bike?**
*It lost its petals.*

**What falls but never gets hurt?**
*The rain!*

**How does the sun listen to its favorite music?**
*On the ray-dio.*

GREGORY LARSON
ARCHITECT

1514 Mifflin Street
Huntingdon, PA 16652
greglarsonarchitect@gmail.com (P) 814.599.1112

# BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARDED AMERICA250MI GRANT

*By Lori Taylor-Blitz, Executive Director*

The Beaver Island Historical Society is proud to announce that it has been awarded funding through the America250MI History Grant Program, a statewide initiative supporting projects that commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

This year's Round 2 awards distributed more than $1 million to 45 projects across Michigan, reflecting a growing investment in preserving and sharing the stories that define our communities.

For Beaver Island, this award supports a major new initiative titled "Island Legacies: Preserving Beaver Island's Untold Stories of Incredible Islanders." The project reflects both the strength of our community and our commitment to ensuring that Beaver Island's history is inclusive, accessible, and deeply connected to the broader American story.

At its core, Island Legacies focuses on telling stories that have not always been fully represented. The project will highlight the lives and contributions of Native American fishing families and Beaver Island veterans, bringing forward voices that are essential to understanding both our local heritage and Michigan's history as a whole.

The work will unfold in three major ways.

First, the project includes important preservation and accessibility improvements at the Marine Museum, the last remaining 1902 net shed in St. James. A new accessible ramp will replace the existing structure, and a custom-built cradle will protect and display the historic Miss Bay City trap-net vessel. These improvements ensure that both the building and its artifacts remain preserved and accessible for future generations.

Second, the Historical Society will develop a new Veterans of Beaver Island exhibit, documenting service from the Civil War through Iraq and Afghanistan. This work will include oral histories, archival research, and both indoor and outdoor displays, including banners throughout downtown St. James. A public program, part of our "Incredible Islanders" series, will be held on July 14, 2026, to honor veterans and their families.

Third, the project will present a Native American Fishing Heritage exhibit centered on the island's long-standing fishing traditions. Through research, oral histories, and interpretive displays, this exhibit will explore the cultural and economic significance of Native fishing on Beaver Island. A companion public program will be held on July 15, 2026, celebrating this enduring legacy.

Together, these efforts reflect the guiding themes of America250MI: the power of place, the importance of community voices, and the ongoing work of understanding our shared history. The project also demonstrates how local stories, when carefully researched and thoughtfully presented, contribute to a deeper understanding of the American experience.

Island Legacies is also a community-driven effort. Partnerships with St. James Township, AMVETS, local historians, and a dedicated team of volunteers ensure that this work is grounded in lived experience and shared stewardship. These collaborations strengthen not only the project itself but the long-term relationships that sustain preservation work on Beaver Island.

As Michigan prepares to commemorate this national milestone in 2026, projects like Island Legacies bring that story home. They remind us that history is not only something we inherit. It is something we actively preserve, interpret, and share.

We are grateful to the Michigan History Center, the Historical Society of Michigan, and the America250MI Committee for their support. Most importantly, we are grateful to our community, whose stories, memories, and commitment make this work possible.

In the months ahead, we look forward to sharing more and inviting the community to participate. Beaver Island's history is rich, complex, and still unfolding. With this support, we are ensuring that more of those stories are told, preserved, and celebrated for generations to come.

*Photo of the Print Shop Museum by Michelle LaFreniere.*

# HAPPY 3RD BIRTHDAY, NORTHERN ISLANDER

## GUTSY WOMEN OF BEAVER ISLAND

*Originally published by the Beaver Island Historical Society*

### RUTH ANN BEDFORD: THE WOMAN WHO REFUSED TO WEAR BLOOMERS

Ruth Ann was born in New York on November 30, 1834 to Walter Miller and Elizabeth Bouton. She married Thomas Bedford and raised two children, Edwin and Julia. They were Mormons and eventually moved to Beaver Island where James Strang declared himself King and led a large Mormon population from 1848–1856.

With each passing year, Strang instituted a succession of restricting laws and regulations. In 1855 Strang ruled that women should wear pantaloons (also called bloomers) under their skirts so as to be more modest. Devout Mormons and keenly aware of social injustice, the Bedfords believed Strang was wrong. Ruth Ann refused to wear bloomers and led other women to rebel against this injustice.

Thomas Bedford was punished by Strang for his wife's activism. He was whipped in the public square which resulted in his determination to end the 'King's' reign. Ruth Ann's courage in rebelling against Strang helped lead her husband and other men to shoot James Strang in 1856. Strang fled to Wisconsin where he died three weeks later.

Thomas eventually abandoned his family and left Beaver Island. Ruth Ann lived on the Island until 1884 when she moved to Charlevoix. She died there in 1911 just days before her 77th birthday.

### MARY ELIZABETH (BETTY) CULL LOCKTON: A TRUE WAR HERO

Betty was born on Beaver Island on May 1, 1915. Her parents were Mike and Mable Cull. She spent her school years on the Island and graduated from Beaver Island Community School in 1931 at the age of 16. The next year she entered Loyola University Mercy Hospital School of Nursing and graduated as a Registered Nurse in 1935. She worked at various hospitals in the Chicago area for several years.

In May of 1942 she joined the Army Nursing Corps, ultimately earning the rank of Captain. She served as a nurse in the battlefields of France and told her oldest daughter, "Even with all my hospital experience I had no idea just how horrible it would be. Many nurses couldn't take it." She left France and was discharged in 1947. Betty was the only woman from Beaver Island to serve during World War II.

Soon after discharge from the Army, Betty married Stanley Lockton. They had four children. Her husband died of a heart attack when their youngest child was a week old. After a short stay with her parents on Beaver Island she moved her family back to Chicago where she worked for the Illinois Central Hospital for the next 40 years. She spent her last summer here on Beaver Island and died in 2001.

### ELIZABETH WHITNEY WILLIAMS: LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER

Williams was born on the 24th of June 1844 on Mackinac Island. In 1848, her family moved to Beaver Island. But, due to pressures to convert to Mormonism by King James Strang, her family moved to the mainland until Strang's assassination in 1856. When the Mormons left, she and her family moved back to Beaver Island.

She married Clement Van Riper who, in 1869, was appointed lighthouse keeper of the Beaver Island Harbor Light. However, his frequent illness meant that Williams had to learn to monitor the lighthouse. In 1872, her husband was lost at sea attempting to rescue survivors from a sinking ship. A few weeks after his death, she was officially made lighthouse keeper—a rarity at a time when women were seldom appointed lighthouse keepers. In 1875, Williams was hired to monitor the Little Traverse Light in Harbor Springs which she did for 29 years.

Williams excelled at her job and received an award for best kept lighthouse in the Great Lakes. By 1897 she was one of four female light keepers in the Great Lakes. In 1905 she published her autobiography, A Child Of The Sea. She was one of America's longest serving lighthouse keepers, serving for 41 years and retiring in 1915. On the 23rd of January 1938, Elizabeth Whitney Williams died at the age of 93.

## HELP WANTED

### SEASONAL EVENTS COORDINATOR

Beaver Island Historical Society seeks an organized and creative individual to plan and coordinate summer events, assist with marketing (digital and print), update website content, and support sponsorship outreach.

Seasonal position April 15–September 30. Approximately 10 hours per week with additional event hours; some evenings and weekends required.

Compensation commensurate with experience.

Apply or inquire:
231-448-2254
director@beaverislandhistory.org

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Established 1957
Keeping Island History Alive

# HONORING AN ISLAND CONSERVATION LEADER

*Originally published by the Little Traverse Conservancy in Spring 2026*

When the Little Traverse Conservancy staff has a question related to Beaver Island, one name generally comes to mind first: Pam Grassmick. For many years, Pam has been the "go-to" person on the island to answer our questions, coordinate a meeting, connect with an intern, and so much more. She has also been the force behind many conservation and protection initiatives.

Because of her deep commitment to conservation, longtime LTC supporter and partner, Charles Wilson, wanted to honor Pam for all that she does to protect her beloved island. Charles has partnered with her and the Conservancy to protect several properties on the island, including a 160-acre conservation easement he donated last year.

When a 16-acre property with 1,500 feet of shoreline on the south shore of Font Lake became available for purchase, Charles and an anonymous foundation donated the funds to turn this land into the Pam Grassmick Nature Preserve. "I don't think Pam is the kind of person who seeks accolades in any way, but those of us who are aware of all that she has done, and continues to do, feel this is a great way to honor her," Charles said. The land consists of forested wetlands and runs along 300 feet of Barney's Lake Road. It is the kind of property that Pam values, fully understanding the importance of protecting wetlands.

Pam's many island initiatives have included starting the Beaver Island Birding Trail and co-founding the Warblers on the Water Festival. She is perhaps best known for her fierce devotion to removing invasive species from the island. In 2016 she organized a symposium for invasive species managers from around the state held on Beaver Island. "That is when I realized how highly regarded she is to everyone in the state involved in invasive species management," said Beth Leuck, island summer resident, former instructor at the Central Michigan University Biological Center, and one of Pam's good friends and fellow island protectors.

"Pam is modeling how as a volunteer we can quietly and effectively make a lasting difference in our corners of the world that mean the most to us," Charles added.

# THE STORIES BEHIND THE NAMES OF ISLANDERS LOST ON THE GREAT LAKES

*By Connie Wojan*

*The following article is a part of an ongoing series based on Islanders listed on the Great Lakes Memorial.*

The sinking of the Vernon resulted in the most Islanders ever drowned in one incident: Catherine Gallagher, Mary Gallagher, Bridget Green, Rose Gallagher, Charles Gallagher, Hannah Malloy, and Louis Gebeau perished when the wooden-hulled steamer Vernon was swamped by waves of up to 40 feet as it attempted to cross Lake Michigan from near Frankfort to Milwaukee during the stormy night of October 29, 1887. Besides the huge rollers bearing down from the northeast (which also almost sank four other vessels in the area that night), poor design and gross overloading contributed to the Vernon's sinking.

In last month's episode, we examined the lives of the three Gallagher girls and Rose Gallagher (no relation). Below are details about the remaining Beaver Island passengers lost in the sinking of the Vernon.

Charles Gallagher (also not related to the other Gallaghers aboard) was born in Pennsylvania in 1855, the son of Cornelius Gallagher and Grace Gladdrey. Both parents were born in Ireland. In 1860, Cornelius was living in Pennsylvania with Grace and five children. The 1870 census shows the family living on Beaver Island with six children. Charles married Mary Boyle, daughter of "Whiskey Boyle," in November 1884. On the day the Vernon sank, he was 32 and had two children, James, age two, and Harriett, born September 13, 1887, just weeks before the shipwreck. Charles' body was recovered, and his headstone still stands in Holy Cross Cemetery. Thanks to the notes of Island historian Helen Collar, we know that his wife, Mary, remarried Ed Pratt, a fisherman, in 1893. In 1910, Mary, now 47, had seven children by Ed.

Hannah Malloy, 20, must have been overjoyed to travel aboard the Vernon, looking forward to being married in Chicago. According to Helen Collar in Journal of Beaver Island History (JBIH, Vol. I), Hannah's parents, Daniel Malloy and Fanny (O'Donnell) Malloy, led one of the first waves of Irish immigrants who came to Beaver Island from New York, settling north of Lake Geneserath. Hannah was the second youngest of Daniel and Fanny's eight children. Ten years before her drowning, she and her siblings suffered a terrible trauma: both of her parents died of consumption within a few days of each other. At the time, consumption, known today as tuberculosis, was rampant throughout the world, including Beaver Island. There was no treatment to stop the bacillus from slowly spreading throughout the victim's body, causing a protracted illness. The years of starvation Hannah and her family endured during the Potato Famine in Ireland likely left their immune systems weakened. Only ten years old in 1877, one can imagine what it must have been like for Hannah to watch not one, but two parents succumb to agonizing deaths. By age thirteen, she was living in the home of John and Bridget O'Donnell (probably relatives of her mother) as a "servant." After such a tragic childhood, Hannah died just on the brink of living a happy new life.

There is some uncertainty about the port at which Louis Gebeau, half-brother of author Elizabeth Whitney Williams, boarded the Vernon. Throughout his fifty-two years of life, Gebeau's residence shifted between Mackinac Island, Beaver Island, and Charlevoix. Louis was a member of the mob that forced the Mormons to evacuate Beaver Island after the assassination of King Strang in 1856 (Collar, Vol. I, JBIH). Later, he served in the Civil War for sixteen months. The 1880 census shows him living with his wife Elizabeth and two sons, Charles and Edgar, in Charlevoix. Fortunately, at the time of the Vernon's sinking, the sons were in their twenties and independent. His body was recovered, and records show he is buried in Brookside Cemetery, Charlevoix.

Due to the passenger roster going down with the ship, we can only estimate that a total of between 36 and 50 lives were lost when the Vernon sank. But we do know that it was "one of the deadliest wrecks ever to have occurred in Wisconsin history" (Wikipedia) and left many Beaver Island families in mourning.

I strongly recommend that anyone interested in more of the fascinating details about the sinking of the Vernon read Henry Hill's superb article in Vol. V, Journal of Beaver Island History.

# Sponsor the Kids' Corner!

Loved one's birthday?

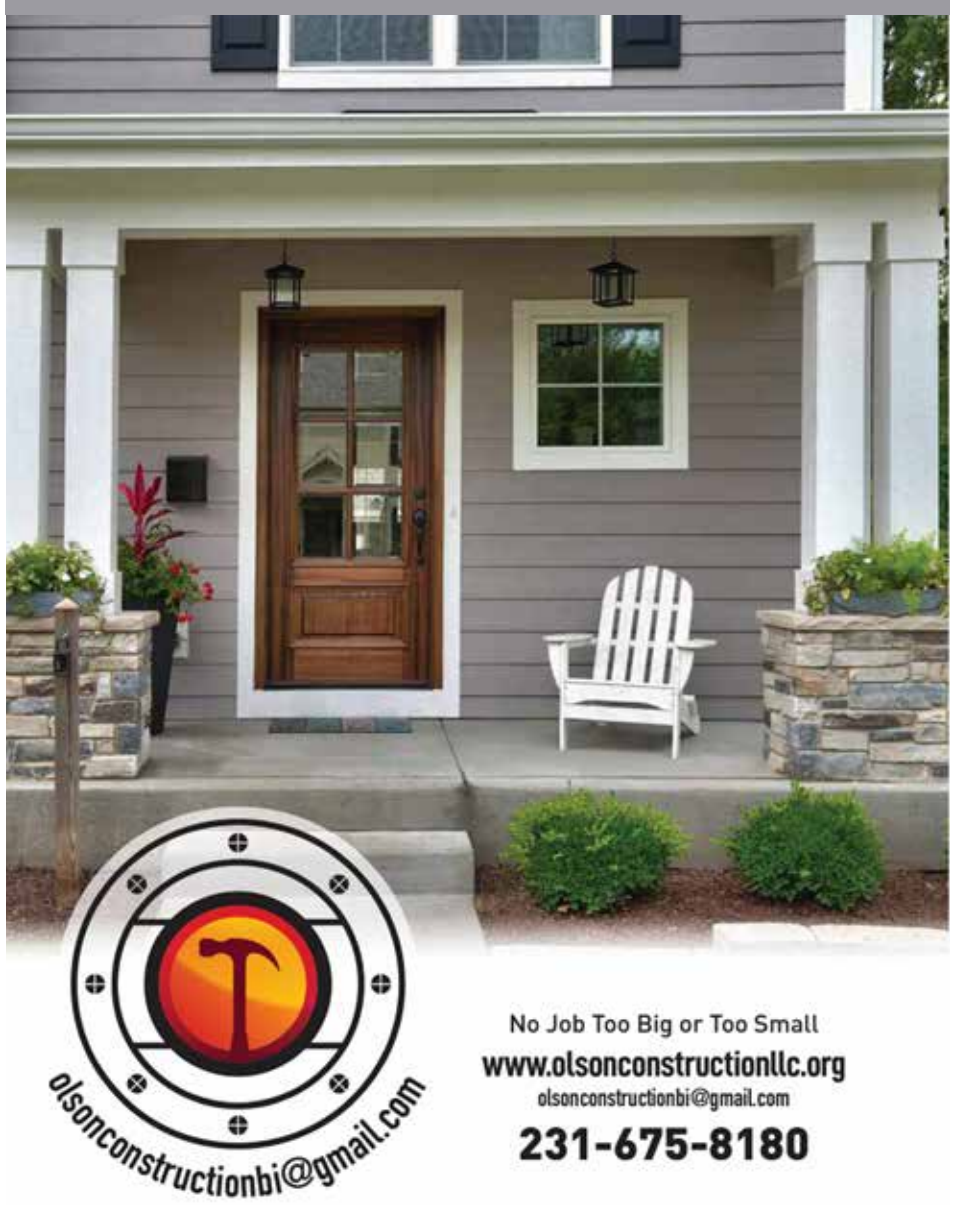
Celebrating an achievement or milestone?

Bringing knowledge to a cause or topic?

# Dedicate the kid's page in their honor!

Email
**editorassistant@beaverislandhistory.com**
for more information


OLSON CONSTRUCTION



olsonconstructionbi@gmail.com

No Job Too Big or Too Small
www.olsonconstructionllc.org
olsonconstructionbi@gmail.com
231-675-8180

FRIENDLY
**REMINDER**

Community Events can be located on the **Beaver Island Community Center** website

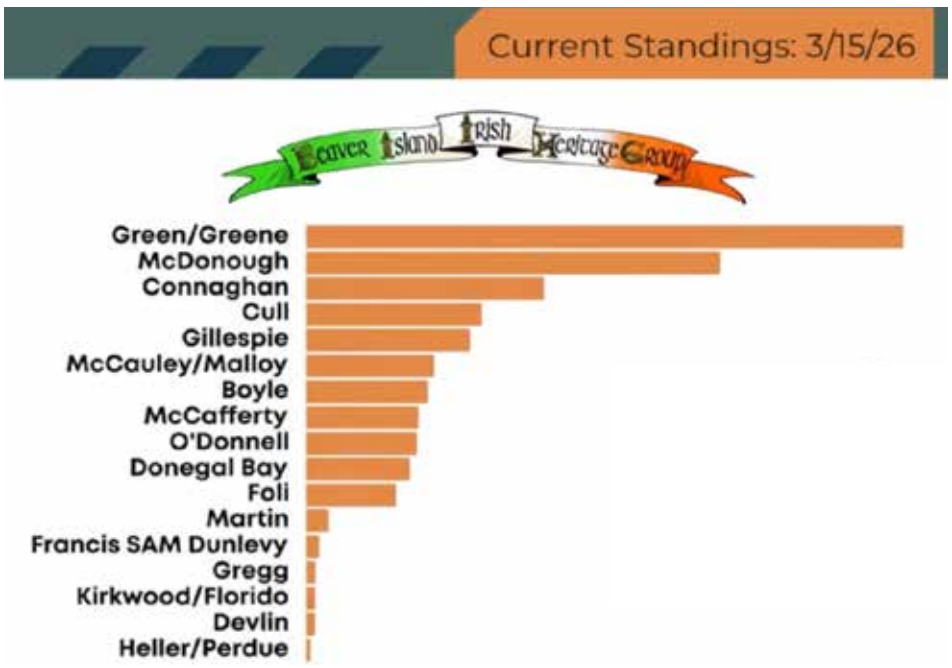
*biccenter.org/calendar/*

BIC Center

# CALLING OF THE CLANS MAKES BIG IMPACT

*By Kathleen "Kitty" McNamara*

The Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group board of directors thanks the 270 some generous donors who responded to the Calling of the Clans initiative this year; that is at least 100 more donors than last year. As a result of the final St Patrick's Day Push, the fundraiser generated more than $37,000.00 as of March 17th, in the names of 17 Clans of which 13 are historic Beaver Island families while five are brand new Clans to the competition. The clans vied for the top spot in a competition that started in early February and picked up steam as the March 17th deadline approached. Each clan's leader worked behind the scenes to get their clan motivated and the competition got fierce as the deadline approached.




*Pictured are the Calling of the Clans fundraising standings as of March 15, 2026, hours before the fundraising period closed.*

The committee is pleased to announce that Green/Greene Clan can claim bragging rights once again by raising over $7,000.00. Second place in the rankings is the McDonough Clan which raised nearly $6,000.00 in donations, and a close third place goes to the Connaghan Clan which raised over $4,000.00. Of note this year, Special Recognition goes to the Gillespie Clan whose total jumped to just over $7,000.00 the day after the challenge closed.
One additional highlight worth celebrating: a clan called Cairdeas (Irish for friendship), started by Becca Foli and created to include people with a strong connection to the island—even if they aren't part of the traditional island families—has raised over $2,000. This is a fantastic accomplishment and represents a participation goal we've been striving toward for quite some time. A great big thank you to all these Clans who participated: Boyle, Cairdeas Connaghan, Cull, Donegal Bay, Devlin, Dunlevy, Gillespie, Green/Greene, Gregg, Heller/Perdue, Kirkwood/Florido, Martin, McCafferty, McCauley/Malloy, McDonough and O'Donnell.

The funds generated by this initiative are used by the Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group to ensure the longevity of the organization and to make sure that the festival can always bring Féile artists and performers from our sister Island Arranmore, County Donegal, Republic of Ireland. For the 2026 Féile, the Arranmore Pipe Band will make a welcome return along with many of their Arranmore Islander friends and relatives. Other talent for the 2026 Féile includes Altan, Stay Happy Band, Danny & Friends, Jerry Early & Arranmore Friends, Bastard Bearded Irishmen, Brother Crowe, Ruby John, Latency, Roane and Catriona Kennedy. Of course there will also be many cultural and educational and sporting events to keep everyone engaged.

As the Calling of the Clans winds up, the board of directors turns its focus to securing festival sponsorship from businesses on Beaver Island, in Charlevoix and beyond. This process will begin in early April, providing the businesses with an opportunity to make their commitments to the Féile, which extends the tourist season by one week. Business sponsorship is crucial for the success of the Féile, providing the necessary funds to plan, organize, and execute the festival effectively. These contributions cover essential expenses such as artists and entertainment, venue rentals, logistics, and marketing, ensuring the event's quality and reach. By becoming a sponsor, businesses not only help sustain and grow this cherished celebration of Irish culture but also foster community connections that resonate beyond the festival.

We offer several sponsorship opportunities tailored to meet various levels of support and with varying levels of benefits depending on the sponsorship commitment. We look forward to working with you to tailor a sponsorship package to your needs. Check out our Féile website, irishfeile.com and click on the sponsorship tab see our wonderful 2025 Sponsors and to see our 2026 Sponsorship Opportunities.

# BEAVER ISLAND IRISH AMERICAN HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS OPEN APRIL 1 – JUNE 1

Nominations for the 2026 inductees into the Beaver Island Irish American Hall of Fame are now OPEN. The nomination form is available on the Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group website: www.biihg.com. This year's nominees will represent the fifth such class of members. Selected members will be honored at a formal induction ceremony on September 12, 2026, at the Emerald Isle Irish Féile on Beaver Island. Photos and biographies of previously inducted members can be viewed on the website.

Nominations are accepted for individuals of Irish American descent, living or deceased, with substantial ties to Beaver Island who have made contributions in areas such as Public Service, Cultural Heritage, Philanthropy, Business and Industry, Arts and Entertainment, Religion, Education, and Sports. Nominees must have a meaningful connection to Beaver Island, be of verifiable Irish ancestry, and have made a notable contribution in one of the aforementioned areas.

Nominations must include the name of the nominee, category, and a brief description of the reason for nomination/candidate worthiness. A committee appointed by the Board of Directors of the Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group will screen nominations and recommend selections to the Committee for final approval.

Deadline for Nominations: The completed nomination form and any supporting materials must be emailed or posted on or before June 1, 2026. Nominations received after this date may be considered for the following year. Selections will be made by July 1, 2026.

To ensure that each Class of Honorees is given full and adequate attention and recognition, the BIIHG Board of Directors agrees each annual class of inductees should be limited to up to 6 members unless there is an overwhelming reason to include others. Results will be announced and posted to the Emerald Isle Irish Féile website.

# EMERALD ISLE IRISH FÉILE

## Sponsorships Available

Business and Individual Feile sponsors are crucial for the Emerald Isle Irish Féile and cover essential expenses like entertainment, venue rentals, and marketing, ensuring the event's quality and reach.

We offer several sponsorship opportunities tailored to meet various levels of support and with varying levels of benefits depending on the sponsorship commitment.

**irishfeile.com/sponsors**

Central Drug Store
301 BRIDGE STREET, CHARLEVOIX, MI 49720 231-547-2424

SERVING YOU & HUNDREDS OF BEAVER ISLANDERS DAILY

- Serving Beaver Island Daily (Monday-Saturday) to both airports
- Orders received by noon will generally ship same day (weather/availability permitting)
- We take most insurances and have no restrictions on types of prescriptions (including non-prescription items)
- New Customers please contact the pharmacy to create your profile before we can ship

CALL NOW

231-547-2424

https://www.central-drug.com

MCGINNITY & CHADDERTON EXTERIOR SERVICES

EXTERIOR HOME AND ROOF CARE

We are a locally run exterior home care business focused on keeping homes clean, protected, and looking their best. With services like window cleaning, roof treatment, and exterior maintenance, we pride ourselves on quality work, fair pricing, and dependable service.

PACKAGE PRICING AVAILABLE

SAVE UP TO 15% OFF

Finn Chadderton (574) 520-9027

Lysander McGinnity (231) 330-2470

# Ride the Boat to Beaver Island

DISCOVER EVEN MORE WITH OUR GUIDED VAN TOURS!

231-547-2311
WWW.BIBCO.COM

BEAVER ISLAND BOAT COMPANY

# Beaver Island's BEST RATES

Earl Young-designed Architecture
Seasonal Outdoor Heated Pool & Deck | Indoor Hot Tub Tower
Harbor & Bridge Views | Complimentary Continental Breakfast
Adjacent to Miles of Walkable Lake Michigan Beach

Airport Pick-Up Service by Reservation | 1 Block to Ferry & Downtown Shopping | Free Check-in Gift when Mentioning this Ad

Weathervane Terrace
INN & SUITES

800.552.0025 | 231.547.9955 | weathervane-chx.com
info@weathervane-chx.com | 111 Pine River Lane, Charlevoix, Michigan 49720

DOWNTOWN CHARLEVOIX'S ONLY AAA HOTEL
CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE tripadvisor
SPECIALS & OFFERS

# Ed Wojan Realty- *Your KEY to Beaver Island*

**Edward B. Wojan - Broker**
**231-448-2711 Office**
**231-313-8682-Cell**

Celebrating our
**50th year**
In BI Real Estate

**The Mulvihill Home – 26930 South Arm Road**

This lakefront home has its Cables' Bay frontage on East Side Drive, but the driveway into it starts on South Arm Road. It is on (has) Lot 22 and 23 of the Cable Bay Plat which are straight East of the center of the South Arm of Lake Geneserath. The Lots have just about 2 Acres of Land with 120.1 feet of Lake Michigan frontage. The house sits back off East Side Drive with an open area between it and the lake shore. It is far enough off the road to not hear cars going by. It also has a wonderful view of the Big Lake from the front deck and great room. There is one bedroom on the main floor, a large full bath that has a separate shower and a claw foot bathtub. Also on the main level is an open kitchen and dining area, the rest of this great room is living room area. A wide staircase takes you up to an open loft/bedroom area (which can easily be made into a private bedroom). There is a half bath on this upper level. This "Loft" area has a beautiful view of Lake Michigan with the all glass eastern wall of the house – through the Cathedral Ceiling front main level. There is a wide deck on the lakeside of the home and a small deck with access on the north side. Between the South Arm Road and the house is a beautiful stand of primarily Sugar Maple trees. The home was built with a high quality metal roof that is still like new. The owner recently erected a metal Quonset 1.5 car garage behind the house. The House is 33ft. by 26 ft. (858') with an additional 292 sq. ft. of finished floor area in the loft bedroom – according to the original owner/builder. It would cost you over $600,000 to buy this lot and build this home with its driveway and all systems today. The Cable Bay Plat owners have two lots for use by all owners that provides access to Lake Geneserath and a sand swimming beach just 1200 feet up East Side Drive. The boat launch on the North Arm of Lake Geneserath is just one mile up the road. Asking price is **$445,000.**

**Ed Wojan Realty - 26300 Back Highway - Beaver Island, MI 49782 - www.edwojanrealty.com**


# GETTING TO KNOW NATHAN BIEBER OF BAROQUE ON BEAVER

*Submitted by the Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance*

As Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance looks toward the future of Baroque on Beaver, the organization is pleased to warmly introduce Nathan Bieber, who will be stepping into the role of Interim Music Director.

A composer, conductor, violinist, and music producer based in Nashville, Tennessee, Nathan brings a dynamic and multifaceted musical background to the festival. His work spans classical performance, film scoring, orchestral conducting, and composition, reflecting a lifelong dedication to music that began when he started composing melodies at just six years old.

Nathan's musical interests are wide-ranging, drawing inspiration from classical repertoire as well as film scores, progressive rock, electronic music, jazz, and other contemporary influences. This breadth of experience has shaped a distinctive artistic voice and a deep enthusiasm for collaboration across musical styles.

In recent years, Nathan has been building an impressive career as a conductor. He served as Conducting Fellow of the Nashville Philharmonic in 2022 and currently works with Nashville Music Scoring, leading recording sessions for film, television, and video game projects. His conducting work has also taken him internationally, including contemporary music performances in Valencia and Madrid, Spain.

Alongside his conducting career, Nathan is an accomplished violinist. He has performed as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral performer across both Europe and the United States, and has participated in several illustrious music festivals including the Cambridge International String Academy, the National Orchestral Institute and Festival, and the Aspen Music Festival.

Nathan holds multiple degrees from the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre, and Dance, including Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Violin Performance and a Master's degree in Orchestral Conducting. He later earned a Master of Music in Scoring for Film, Television, and Video Games from Berklee College of Music's Valencia campus, graduating with highest honors.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Nathan brings an adventurous and curious spirit to his work. When not making music, he enjoys spending time in nature, following Detroit sports, reading, and exploring new places.

Baroque on Beaver believes Nathan's energy, creativity, and collaborative approach will be a natural fit for the Baroque on Beaver community. As Robert Nordling transitions into a new phase of his leadership with the festival, Nathan will help carry forward the artistic vision that audiences and musicians have come to cherish.

This summer, audiences will have the opportunity to experience Baroque on Beaver through Nathan's eyes as we celebrate the festival's 25th anniversary season, happening July 23rd - August 1.

Beaver Island Performing Arts Alliance

# NOW AVAILABLE!

All our favorite Emerald Isle companions gathered together under one, specially curated publication!

**Call or visit to reserve your copy!**

$20 each,
limited 2 per customer
on first shipment

**(231) 448-2254**
**26275 Main St, B.I.**

FOGG MARINE ENTERPRISES

DOCKS
TOWING
DREDGING
BOAT REPAIR
LOGGING
SALVAGE
EXCAVATING
CONTAINER SHIPPING
SEAWALLS
ON WATER FIREWORKS

# You Call, We HAUL

GENERAL, FREIGHT, CARGO, HEAVY EQUIPMENT, TOPSOIL, BOATS, MORE

SERVING BEAVER ISLAND & THE GREAT LAKES

foggmarineenterprises@gmail.com

231.448.4000 | STJAMESMARINE.COM

# TOWARD 250: BEAVER ISLAND AND THE AMERICAN STORY

*Introduction by Lori Taylor-Blitz*

As the United States approaches its Semiquincentennial in 2026, Toward 250 invites readers to explore how Beaver Island's history intertwines with the broader American narrative.

Each installment will highlight local stories of resilience, innovation, migration, maritime heritage, and community-building that reflect the ideals and complexities of the nation's past 250 years. From Native American lifeways and Irish immigration to fishing traditions, veterans' service, and the evolution of island governance, this column connects the national commemorative moment to the Island's lived experience.

Toward 250 also welcomes contributions from community members. Writers of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to submit short articles, family stories, essays, images, and reflections that illuminate how Beaver Island's heritage connects to the American story. Submissions may honor local traditions, share memories, or highlight individuals whose lives help define our shared history.

---

## WHY THE 1976 BICENTENNIAL EFFORT STILL RESONATES

*Submitted by Bobbi Welke and Ed Wojan*

---

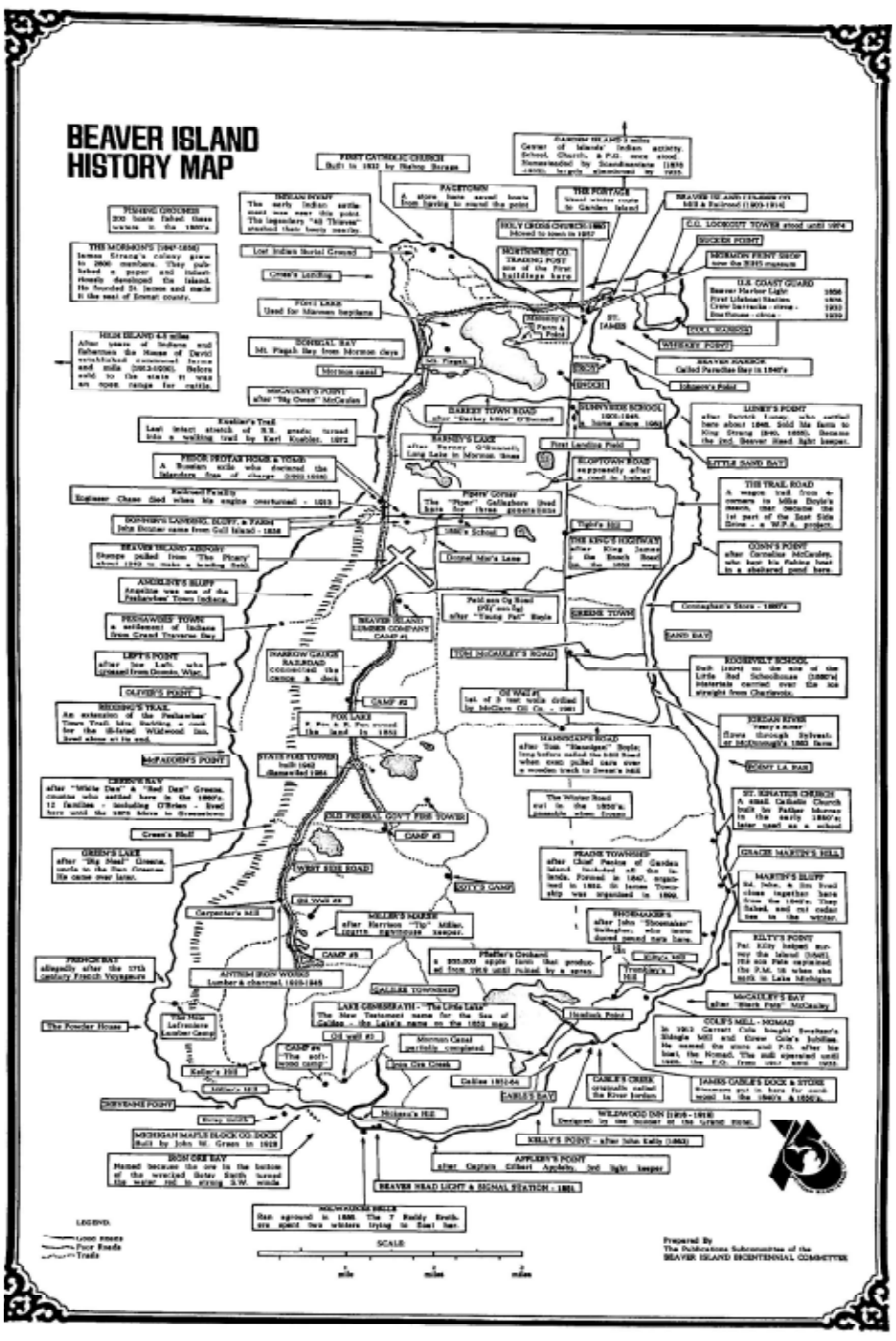
The 1976 Beaver Island Bicentennial Celebration was one for the ages. The remarkable efforts of the Beaver Island Bicentennial Committee, with the support of the community, to preserve and restore history continues to resonate. The festivities weren't just celebratory - durable institutions and resources were created that continue to shape how the island preserves and interprets its past. Their projects established a model of community-driven heritage work that still guides organizations like the Beaver Island Historical Society (BIHS) today.

A few elements stand out:

- Community-wide participation - Islanders and friends of islanders donated funds, volunteered time, and rallied around the idea of documenting and preserving their shared history.
- Strong leadership - Archie LaFreniere (Chairman), Edward Wojan (Executive Director), William Cashman (Chairman of the Publications Subcommittee), and Ed Ladd (Treasurer) coordinated the effort and set a tone of collaboration and ambition. Project leaders are discussed below.
- Foundational project -
    - ◊ A $5,000 grant from the Michigan American Revolution Bicentennial Committee (MARBC) partially funded the creation of The Journal of Beaver Island History, Volume 1, which was published in 1976. Of all the Bicentennial projects designed to preserve and share the island's history, this publication proved to be the most ambitious. Bill Cashman and Ed Wojan led the effort, supported by a long list of dedicated volunteers who helped produce what became a foundational resource for understanding Beaver Island's past.
    - ◊ The MARBC, after originally denying the Cashman-Wojan plan to prepare a historical book, claiming it would be too ambitious, subsequently and skeptically approved their plan. After its production the MARBC recognized the profound work of Cashman and Wojan.
    - ◊ The authors contributed an impressive collection of well-researched articles covering topics such as archaeology, the Mormon period, Irish migration, Protar, fishing, logging, island religious traditions, the House of David, the mail contract, and island events from 1947 to 1951. The concluding article, completed by Wojan, is one of the community's most significant historical records: a detailed catalog of Beaver Island's place names - along with their origins, founders, and locations. In addition, the pages of Volume 1 are enriched by a remarkable collection of historical photographs that bring Beaver Island's past to life.

Additional Heritage Projects:

- Bicentennial planning work by LaFreniere and Wojan began in 1975. Wojan arranged for George and Martha Miller to donate Shing Martin's Net Shed to BIHS so it could be developed into the Historical Society's Marine Museum; thereby preserving the Beaver Island Archipelago's story of fishing. He raised the funds so the Wojan Construction Co could - at cost - rebuild one of the harbor's last net sheds into the new Marine Museum. Check out a project photo of the crew working on the south exterior wall on page 216 of Volume 1. BIHS volunteers subsequently worked to develop and install the exhibits.
- The Heritage Park was developed on St James Township owned property along Donegal Bay Road, which Wojan worked on arranging a lease between the township and BIHS for 99 years. This park is where non-nautical items too large for the museum could be displayed. The Wojan family worked to clear the land allowing the BIHS volunteers to organize displays of old farming implements and lumbering tools.
- To launch the effort to identify historic sites across the island, 4' x 4' signs were crafted using island cedar made into planks by the 1975-era Wojan mill – the 4th Wojan mill on the island. Two of the first signs - completed by Buzz Anderson and Wojan - highlighted the island's fishing history for placement in front of the new museum, and the history of the King Strang Hotel for installation at the hotel site.
- The final Bicentennial project produced a series of historical publications designed to document the island's past and help visitors appreciate its rich heritage. As the culminating piece of this effort, the 1976 Bicentennial Committee created the island's first Historical Map.
- This Bicentennial map was a noteworthy achievement. It later became the foundation for the Wojan-Cashman Map of Beaver Island series. The evolution of these maps, along with the history of road and bay naming, will be addressed in a future report for The Northern Islander.



# REMEMBERING MARTIN TUOHY

*Submitted by Marie Tuohy*

Martin G. Tuohy, 72, of Libertyville, Illinois, passed away after a brief illness on March 16, 2026. In 1971, Marty ventured from his hometown of Lima, Ohio, to attend Rosary College (now Dominican University) in River Forest, Illinois, where he met his wife-to-be, Marie Grundin. He spent his final days at home getting foot rubs from Marie and his devoted children Benjamin, Henry (Meghan), Megan Rose and Matthew. Marty operated construction and commercial real estate development and management companies.

Martin followed politics very closely. He was an advocate for civil rights. He also had a lot of fun, especially on summer trips to Beaver Island, America's Emerald Isle, where he would entertain grandsons Wyatt and Finn. Hydro-engineering at Iron Ore Bay was top of list for island tours. One year, he had 14 visitors in a Dodge mini-van and took them to all the highlights, including a forced march from the top to bottom of Kuebler's Trail. In the early 1970's he would rub elbows (sort of) with Karl Kuebler himself at the Shamrock. In recent years, he was a proud member of Beaver Island's Elks Lodge #2886. He was generous to many, far beyond his family. He will be missed by all, and his lessons and nurturing gifts long remembered. Marty had many friends and lots of family, all of whom appreciated his humor and his fidelity as a friend and his concern for others.

A funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Libertyville on Monday, March 23 and he will be interred at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery here at his favorite place in the world. In lieu of flowers, remembrances to the Beaver Island Rural Health Center would be appreciated.

# INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK RETURNS APRIL 13–20, 2026

Beaver Island's famously star-filled skies will take center stage this spring as the community joins a global celebration of International Dark Sky Week, happening April 13–20, 2026.

Observed around the world, Dark Sky Week is a time to pause, look up, and appreciate one of Beaver Island's greatest natural treasures—the night sky. With minimal light pollution and wide-open horizons, the Island offers a rare opportunity to experience the kind of darkness that is becoming increasingly hard to find.

*The following details are provided courtesy of the DarkSky International Dark Sky Week media kit:*

## WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL DARK SKYWEEK?

International Dark SkyWeek is a global celebration of the night. From the darkness that supports critical wildlife ecosystems to the star-filled skies we enjoy, the night is filled with wonder and importance.

Each year, DarkSky encourages participation in events and activities around the world that build appreciation for the night and inspire action. As light pollution grows at an alarming rate, nearly 10% each year, the night as we know it is increasingly under threat.

## THIS YEAR'S THEME: GO DARK

This year's theme invites people to discover the night by making an active choice: to "go dark" and experience natural darkness firsthand. Whether it's sitting quietly in a campground, walking a trail by moonlight, or turning off porch lights at home to see the stars just a little better, small actions can create meaningful moments and deepen our understanding of the night's importance.

## PROTECT THE NIGHT WITH QUALITY LIGHT

While bad lighting is driving the growth of light pollution, the solution is simpler and more impactful than many realize. Quality lighting and thoughtful design can protect the night while meeting human needs.

**CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION**

**PEAINE TOWNSHIP**
**RESOLUTION #06 OF 2026**
**CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION**
**PEAINE TOWNSHIP, BEAVER ISLAND, MICHIGAN**

**WHEREAS,** light pollution negatively impacts both human health and environmental well-being, disrupting ecosystems and diminishing the natural beauty of our night skies; and

**WHEREAS,** inefficient outdoor lighting contributes to light pollution, obstructing the breathtaking view of the night sky that residents and visitors of Beaver Island cherish; and

**WHEREAS,** preserving dark skies benefits wildlife, supports scientific research, enhances public enjoyment of natural areas, and promotes responsible outdoor lighting practices; and

**WHEREAS,** Beaver Island's unique location in northern Lake Michigan provides an exceptional opportunity for stargazing and appreciating meteorological events such as the Northern Lights; and

**WHEREAS,** Peaine Township recognizes the importance of protecting our night skies as part of our commitment to environmental conservation and the sustainability of our natural resources; and

**WHEREAS,** Dark Sky Week serves as an opportunity to educate the community on responsible lighting practices, reduce unnecessary light pollution, and celebrate the wonder of our night sky;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that Peaine Township officially proclaims April 13–20, 2026, as Dark Sky Week, with the island celebration to take place at a later date, encouraging all residents and visitors to join in efforts to reduce light pollution and appreciate the beauty of our star-filled sky.

**Offered by** Smith, **Supported by** Stebbins
**Roll Call Vote:**
Yes: Stebbins, Smith, Martin, Dal Pra
No: None
Absent: Cary
**Resolution Declared**

**CERTIFICATE**

I, Carla Martin, the duly elected and acting Clerk of Peaine Township, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Township Board by a roll call vote at a regular meeting of the Board held on February 18th, 2026, at which meeting a quorum was present; and that this resolution was ordered to take immediate effect.

Carla Martin, Clerk — Maria Dal Pra, Supervisor

For more information and to explore events and resources, visit idsw.darksky.org.

# BEAVER ISLAND FOOD PANTRY

*Submitted by Beth Croswhite*

The Beaver Island Food Pantry is so grateful for community support.  This winter our Pantry has seen a 75% increase in need on the Island. Between food price increases everywhere and food stamp cuts, this has caused a tremendous increase for our little Pantry. We are incredibly grateful for our local community's support, and want to thank everyone who has stepped up this year to help us address this increased need.

We would like to thank the local Elks Club for a very generous donation last fall with a $4,167 check! This large financial donation helped us buy most of our non-perishable foods and have them shipped on the Ferry before the season's end.

The Beaver Island Community School group's National Honor Society arranged a competitive, non-perishable food collection. The competition was between elementary, middle and high school classes. They gathered boxes and boxes of valuable food before their winter break. Thank you families and parents for the contributions. Our cupboards were not bare heading into winter.

We need to thank McDonough's Market for always having our backs! They are continually supporting us with our unusual orders, at reduced costs, and free delivery! They have been a tremendous support since our inception. We are grateful for their love of the Island and its families!

Recently, a new Island group, the "Roper Romp", organized a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for the Pantry. The community turned out in full support despite the icy roads and weather. The wonderful donations of the Islanders garnered nearly $2200 and several boxes of non-perishable food.  We even received a Venmo donation from the Traverse City Airport Parking for $300!

In previous newspaper articles, I have discussed issues like "food insecurity". Insecurity is not just empty shelves in the cupboards or fridge. It also includes making decisions between using very little $$ to pay rent/utilities or buy food.

This month, I would like to discuss a sensitive issue of "food hoarding". This issue can be linked to possible OCD issues. However, is more likely an emotional response to "food trauma" in the past—possibly during childhood or young adult life stages—when food was unavailable or unreliably sourced.

This trauma creates an emotional scar. The person or family has an underlying worry that there might be a shortage of food. Thus they need to get more food now, while it's available and/or they have the resources to buy. They might collect multiples of one type of food. Or they might buy duplicates when their shopping list only needs one.

I have found myself being tempted to buy duplicates in the winter months on the Island. I might need a specific ingredient for a recipe. I go to the store and discover there are only 2 cans left of that ingredient. My first thought is to buy both! I might want to make that recipe again. But I stop myself and think of a local family with children. They might need this ingredient too. Why should I keep it unused on my shelf when someone else could use it today? I remind myself, the store is only having a temporary shortage due to weather grounding planes and will restock when the boat runs again. I buy one and let my Island neighbors have one.

This is true at the food pantry too. We welcome recipients to take what they can use, and to remember all the other families that have dire need also. This community is small and we need to care for each other out here in the Lake!

Thank you, Beaver Island, for helping your neighbor by donating to the Food Pantry with food or money. And by only taking what you can use, so your neighbors have that same chance too!!

WE HAVE NEW WAYS TO DONATE TO THE BI FOOD PANTRY!

- Venmo—#Elizabeth-Croswhite, please list Food Pantry as your reason
- Credit Card donation—The Beaver Island Community Center now accepts credit card donations for the Pantry.
- Shopping online—Send cleaning supplies (laundry soap, dish soap, toilet cleaner, etc.), personal care items (shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste/brush, etc.), paper products (toilet paper, paper towels, tissue), or food directly to the Pantry.
- BI Food Pantry, Box 21 or 38215 Kenwabikise La., Beaver Island, MI 49782
- Snail mail a check—Written out to BI Christian Church, in the memo list Food Pantry, mail to above address
- Food donations on the Island—There are 5 (white laundry basket) drop locations:
  - BI Christian Church entry
  - Holy Cross Church entry
  - BI Community Center
  - BI Rural Health Center entry
  - Fresh Air aviation

bartletts'
HOME INTERIORS
Where you're always at home.

Flooring - Furniture - Mattresses
Window Treatments

Serving Northern Michigan for 75 years!

Free flooring measures and estimates (Island included)
Free delivery to BIBCO
Family owned and operated for 3 generations

Call or visit our 35,000 square foot showroom for your next project...big or small!

6499 M-66 North
Charlevoix, MI

BartlettsHomeInteriors.com
(231) 547-2884

# NINE Design & Homes

## Serving Beaver Island and Northern Michigan

## Design
## Construction
## Renovation

**Call or Text Keith**

**720.544.1511**

**Info@Nine.homes**

ninedesignandhomes
keithbynum_

# CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SYNOPSIS - MARCH 11, 2026

*Submitted by Kim Garver*

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met in the Charlevoix County Commissioners room on March 11, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. Four Commissioners were present. Excused: Commissioner Kenney and Commissioner Conway.

Motion approved the agenda as amended.

Motion approved the consent agenda as presented.

Motion approved Resolution #26-020, Grandvue Operating Transfer. Motion approved Resolution #26-021, County Expenditures.

Motion to table Parks Logo discussion until March 25, 2026, Board meeting. Motion approved the appointment of Julia Drost to the Transit Advisory Board.

Motion approved Resolution #26-022, 2026, Appropriation of Parks Millage Funds.

Motion approved Resolution #26-023, 2026 Marine Safety Grant.

Motion approved Resolution #26-024, Accept Donation of Money or Property to Charlevoix County.

Motion approved Resolution #26-025, Adopt Amended Rules of Procedures of the Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners.

Motion approved Resolution #26-026, FY 2027 Resolution of Intent. The meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair at 10:20 a.m. Complete copies of the Board minutes can be found on the County website, www.charlevoixcounty.org.
Julia A. Drost, County Clerk

# FURBABIES OF BEAVER ISLAND

*By Colleen O'Sullivan-Hurst*

## MEET MOSELEY

Meet Moseley, a fun loving 5-year old Black Labrador. Moseley has been coming to Beaver Island with his parents, Jeff & Colleen, since his 1st birthday.

He spends his "Island time" on Sand Bay "hangin' ten" on his paddleboard or surfing for his bumper on Lake Michigan waves! Moseley LOVES his time spent on the Island in the water or in town making new friends!

# GREENWALD & B.C. INC.

## GENERAL CONTRACTORS

**HELPING YOU CREATE**

**THE HOME THAT YOU LOVE!**

Your home plays a central role in your everyday life, when enjoying time with children, friends, or family; or simply relaxing on a beautiful day. Making changes or building a new home is easier when you partner with an expert that understands your vision and can turn it into reality. Whether a renovation or new building project, our team focuses on exceeding your expectations and turning your dreams into reality through honest communication and professional expertise.

**Project Planning & Preparation**

**Roofing | Siding | Soffit & Fascia | Gutter Systems**

**Doors, Windows & Skylights | Rot Repair | Insulation**

**Kitchen & Bath Remodels | Interior Upgrades & Remodels**

**Demolition & Reconstruction**

**New Building Construction | Additions**

**Garages & Pole Barns | Decks & Stairways | Site Work | Masonry**

**Phone: 989-772-2202 | Web: www.GreenwaldBC.com**

Preston Herren: Preston@GreenwaldBC.com

Maura Turner: Maura@GreenwaldBC.com

# SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

IT JUST HASN'T MADE IT TO BEAVER ISLAND YET

HAPPY APRIL FOOLS!

## Please Join our Northern Islander Family!

**We are committed to creating our publication with an authentic vision and enthusiastic leadership team dedicated to producing relevant storytelling experiences for the community, by the community. As a nonprofit organization, we can only succeed and thrive with your support.**

**Subscribe NOW and stay connected to Beaver Island whenever and wherever you are!**

**To subscribe, mail in the form provided below, or visit beaverislandhistory.org/northern-islander**

## I'd love an annual subscription to the *Northern Islander*!

**Subscription Options:**

___ Regular (In-State) $50 ___ Out of State $65

___ Digital Only $48 ___ Digital & Print (In-State) $62

___ Digital & Print (Out of State) $77

**Mail to:**

Northern Islander
PO Box 295
Beaver Island, MI 49782

Name: _____

Address: _____

City:_____ State:_____ Zip: _____

Email:_____

Phone Number: _____

**Payment Options:** To pay by card, please visit *northernislander.news*

___ Cash

___ Check: Make payable to Northern Islander